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POLL RESULTS

In a CNMI election, no one can tell how you voted. Do you believe that to be true or false?

True	83
False	52
Undecided	3
No opinion	5

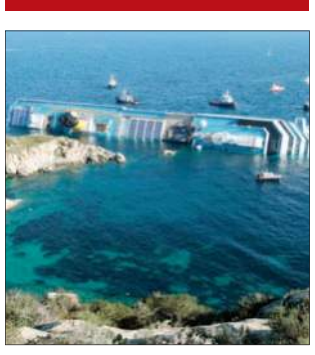
Sunday, January 15, 2012

INSIDE

LOCAL

The defense team prevails over the prosecution during Saturday's "coffee house trial." ➤ PAGE 9

WORLD



The terrifying, chaotic escape from a luxury liner was straight out of a scene from "Titanic." ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

A 23-year-old beauty queen from Wisconsin is the new Miss America. ➤ PAGE 19

TO HELP SAVE RETIREMENT FUND:

Chamber suggests pension cuts

» Larger cuts for retired elected officials, judges

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is recommending ways to help improve the NMI Retirement Fund's fiscal conditions, including a 5- to 7-percent cut in current retirees' benefits and higher cuts in benefits paid to retired government officials such as governors, lawmakers and judges, as well as further spending cuts in government.

Brennan

This early, some retirees are supporting the proposal.

Mario Taitano, a retiree, said yesterday if the recommendation is an "across-the-board" cut in benefits, then that is something he would support.

"There are so many ways that the three branches of government could help the Fund. But if we're talking about benefit cut as the Chamber is recommending, then I'm all for it if it's not more than 10 percent and if it is

See CHAMBER on Page 4

3rd survivor found on stricken cruise ship

By GREGORIO BORGIA and NICOLE WINFIELD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GIGLIO, Italy (AP)—Firefighters worked Sunday to rescue a crew member with a suspected broken leg from the overturned hulk of the luxury cruise liner Costa Concordia, 36 hours after it ran aground. More than

See SURVIVOR on Page 4

Manta Ray team rules drill competition

» SSHS joins Tinian/Rota in regional contest in California

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The 16-member Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray team emerged as the big winner in the special drill competition held Saturday at Marianas High School, ruling the contest and earning the slot to vie for the regional title next month.

The Manta Ray team bested two other public high schools on island and was adjudged overall winner in the competition, sweeping the top awards in three of the four categories: armed regulation, color guard, and exhibition.

See MANTA on Page 4

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray cadets gather for a group photo with Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada after ruling the JROTC's "Battle Drill for Long Beach" Saturday at Marianas High School ground. Other photo, cadets from Rota and Tinian high schools who were selected to be part of the CNMI Team that will go to the regional competition pose with education officials and evaluators after the awarding rites Saturday at Marianas High School. The Public School System will send 32 cadets in all to the regional competition in California. MONETH G. DEPOSA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

HIGHEST IN ENTIRE U.S., TERRITORIES

Rota, Tinian gas as high as $6.70 a gallon

» Shell follows Mobil's 10-cent hike on Saipan

Rota and Tinian gas prices are now as high as $5.75 a gallon for regular unleaded and $6.70 a gallon for diesel fuel following a 10-cent increase over the weekend. These pump prices are the highest in the entire United States and its territories.

Saipan's pump prices are currently at $4.809 to $5.319 a gallon.

Shell Marianas increased its Saipan pump prices by 10 cents a gallon on Saturday, mirroring Mobil Oil Mariana Islands' price hikes on Thursday amid soaring crude oil prices, seasonal demand, rising tensions with Iran, and China's increasing demand for oil, among other things.

The CNMI's isolated location and the high cost of transporting products, especially to Rota and Tinian, all add up to much higher prices on these two islands compared to the capital island of Saipan and the rest of the United States.

Average pump price in the U.S. hovers around $3.391 a gallon, based on data from the American Automobile Association Inc. as of Jan. 14.

Among U.S. states, Hawaii has the

See GAS on Page 4

No. of kids on Head Start's wait list increasing. PAGE 2
USCIS reiterates that people need not reapply for parole. PAGE 3

Local

ON ISSUE OF IMPROPER ANNUAL LEAVE CASH OUT:

Sablan submits report to board; discussion 'on-hold'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan has already submitted a report related to the Board of Education's findings that some non-certified personnel of the Public School System improperly cashed out their annual leave in violation of system and board policies, according to board chair Marylou S. Ada.

Ada refused, however, to disclose the content of Sablan's report pending the review of legal counsel *George Hasselback,* who is currently on leave.

In a letter to Sablan last month, Ada instructed the commissioner to inform employees who have received the improper payments to return the money or resign from the system if they refuse to do so.

Sablan was given until Jan. 9 to submit a written report that will include the names of each employee who has been given an improper payout and how each of these employees will recompense PSS.

"Yes, the commissioner did submit her report on a timely basis and we're going to review it whether what she submitted is everything that we required. If not, we will ask her to be more detailed and specifically, to follow our request as much as possible," Ada told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Ada, Hasselback is the counsel specifically working with the board on this matter. As such, the board cannot comment on the issue until he returns from his leave. "[George] will be onboard until Feb. 25th and then moving up to OPA [Office of Public Auditor]," she said. The board has another legal counsel, Kelly Butcher, who had also just returned from a personal leave.

Ada said the board has not discussed Sablan's report since receiving it. "We need to sit down with our legal counsel to try to see if everything has been addressed by the commissioner. From there on, we're going ask the COE to elaborate and expand on the specific concerns," she added.

Sablan, during Thursday's board meeting, also declined to comment but confirmed submitting it to the board.

The board had determined in December that some non-certified system employees improperly cashed out their annual leave and directed these employees to return the money, following review that the act is a violation of board policy.

There has been no decision and findings yet on the allegations that some certified personnel of the system also improperly cashed out their benefit, including the commissioner herself. Investigation on this matter is still ongoing, according to the board.

Number of children on Head Start's wait list is increasing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The number of children who are waiting to be enrolled in the Public School System's Head Start program continues to increase, this time now numbering over a hundred on the wait list.

Melissa Palacios, the program director, reported to the Board of Education that, as of last week, there were a total of 121 eligible children who were waiting for their chance to be accepted into the program.

Saipan Tribune learned that Head Start only had about 90 children on the wait list when the school year started in September. The number has grown since then.

According to Palacios, only one child on the list was accpeted after one enrollee's family decided to relocate to Guam in November.

The CNMI Head Start is a federally funded program under the Department of Health and Human Services. It provides developmental services for low-income children ages 3 to 5 and social services for their families. At present, it is allowed to enroll only 462 children every program year based on the federal assistance allocated for the program's personnel and operation.

Palacios said that in previous years, children on the wait list averaged up to 120 each year.

"We started the school year with only about 90 on the wait list but because our registration is open, we see the continuous increase in the number of kids on our wait list and there's no way we can accommodate them because we are required only a limited number of enrollees, which is 462," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

She said that the program has an operating yearly budget of about $1.8 million, of which about $320,000 comes from the local share.

Years ago, the funded enrollment for Head Start was 579 but due to the budget decline at the national level, the enrollment was capped at 462. Palacios does not expect to see any increase in their enrollment numbers within the year.

According to Palacios, the program also requires maintaining a wait list every program year to make sure the next available child is ready to be enrolled once another enrollee drops out.

Of the 462 enrollees it serves, Palacios said 58 children, or about 13 percent of the population, have disabilities. This percentage is higher than what the program requires, which is 10 percent. The CNMI has 10 Head Start centers on three islands.

Man who turned violent gets 27-day sentence

The Superior Court has imposed a 27-day prison term on a man who became violent after he refused to take his medication for mental illness.

Associate judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Mariano W. Rasiang last week to six months in prison, all suspended except for 27 days, for disturbing the peace, with credit for the 27 days he has already served in jail. This means the 35-year-old Rasiang will no longer serve further jail time.

Rasiang was placed on supervised probation for a year and required to pay a $100 probation fee and $25 court assessment fee. Rasiang was also directed to seek anger management/substance abuse treatment at the Community Guidance Center.

Camacho also barred Rasiang from possessing or consuming any alcoholic drinks during his one-year probation.

He was also ordered to stay away from his father and his house.

According to the plea agreement, Rasiang's father called for police assistance on Dec. 15, 2011, because his son had become violent, slamming the house's doors, hitting cars, and shouting.

The father told police that Rasiang has a mental illness and has refused to take his medication for about six months.

The father disclosed that the defendant hears voices, and that he is scared to return to his house when his son is there because he has threatened to kill him and his wife.

Police said Rasiang has two children who currently live with his father. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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USCIS reiterates that people need not reapply for parole

» Aliens worry about lack of status 'document'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Agnes Partola, 32, mailed her request for humanitarian parole to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Guam in mid-November. Once her parole request is granted, she would be able to stay in the CNMI legally while trying to find a new job amid a tough economy. Because she has two minor U.S. citizen children, she also hopes that the parole that will be given to her will be valid until Dec. 31, 2012. But two months since she mailed her request, Partolan has yet to hear from USCIS.

"Right now, I do not know whether they've even received my application. What if it was lost? Two months, and still no word from USCIS. I have been worried because I do not have any document regarding my status," Partola told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She is just one of the hundreds who are still waiting for USCIS to decide on their parole request since November. These are people who didn't have any Commonwealth-only worker, or CW, petition filed on their behalf by any CNMI employer.

Partola made an InfoPass appointment for later this month to be able to personally ask a USCIS representative on Saipan about her parole application.

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, and Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, separately said yesterday that they sympathize with hundreds of aliens who are still in limbo because USCIS has not decided on their parole requests yet.

Other nonresidents, mostly with U.S. citizen children, however, have taken a different route by reapplying for parole despite an earlier statement from USCIS that there's no need to apply again if they've already applied for parole in November 2011.

USCIS regional media manager Marie Thérèse Sebrechts reiterated on Friday USCIS' earlier statement that individuals who applied for parole in November 2011 need not apply again.

Reyes and Syed said USCIS cannot blame individuals who, because of lack of any proof of immigration status, including parole in place, have reapplied for parole.

"I am again asking USCIS to please come up with an announcement regarding pending parole applications. We ask USCIS to make a determination now on parole applications because peoples' plans are being jeopardized. They do not know whether their application for parole is received, denied or approved. Because they don't know, they cannot really plan and move on," Syed said.

Reyes said that people are starting to worry about not having any information as to the status of their application so they are not taking any chances.

USCIS announced in November that it will grant, on a case-by-case basis, a one-year parole expiring on Dec. 31, 2012, for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals.

Most of those covered by this so-called "IR parole" are those who would benefit from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's H.R. 1466, a bill that seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status to four groups of people, including immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. The bill remains pending in Congress.

As for those with pending CW petitions, USCIS said it will extend their parole if their CW application has not been adjudicated by the Jan. 31, 2012, expiration of their parole.

However, USCIS has yet to release data as to how many of the over 11,000 CW petitions filed as of Dec. 9 have yet to be adjudicated.

Syed said Jan. 31 is only about two weeks away, and hopes that USCIS will soon make an announcement whether those with pending CW applications have to prepare for parole extension.

USCIS has already granted CW status and issued notices for biometrics appointments to many nonresident workers. But many have yet to receive a CW application number or a biometrics appointment as of last week.

USCIS has said people who were paroled due to an expired permit must keep their parole current in order to maintain a legal presence in the United States.

Merger of EMO and Homeland Security proposed

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) has pre-filed a bill that essentially merges the Office of Homeland Security and the Emergency Management Office into a new office of CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management for "centralized" responses to major natural and man-made disasters.

Currently, EMO and OHS have overlapping functions. Both also coordinate with the same federal, regional, state and local agencies in preparing and responding to different kinds of emergencies.

House Bill 17-262 will be among the bills to be formally introducing during the House session on Tuesday.

Demapan said "there is a need for centralized coordination and the purpose of this act is to establish the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Office of the Governor."

The 22-page bill authorizes the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management to be the "primary state agency responsible for response coordination of significant emergencies and major disasters within the CNMI."

It also seeks to develop a comprehensive CNMI All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan to provide for a state-level coordination, and appropriate plan to respond to incidents of state or national significance.

Under the bill, the new office will be headed by a special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management who will be appointed by the governor.

The appointee shall meet certain qualifications, including a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, homeland security or emergency management; 10-year management experience in law enforcement, fire service or emergency management; meets the minimum requirements or credentials to pass a U.S. Department of Homeland Security "secret" clearance; and meets minimum FEMA National Incident Management System Certification or the Incident Command System. FEMA stands for Federal Emergency Management Agency. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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SURVIVOR

From Page 1

40 people are still unaccounted-for.

Spokesman Luca Cari told The Associated Press that rescuers had spoken to the person inside the ship, an Italian working in cabin service, who is the third survivor to be found. Late Saturday a South Korean couple on their honeymoon were rescued when firefighters in the unsubmerged part of the ship heard their screams.

Three people are confirmed dead after the huge cruise ship carrying more than 4,200 people ran aground on Friday night.

Police divers and rescue crews on Sunday circled around the wreckage of ship off the coast of the island of Giglio. Crews in dinghies were touching the hull with their hands, near the site of the 160-foot (50-meter) -long gash where water flooded in and caused the ship to fall on its side.

Coast guard officials have said divers will try to enter the belly of the ship in case anyone is still inside.

Coast guard spokesman Capt. Filippo Marini told Sky Italia TV that Coast Guard divers have recovered the so-called "black box" with the recording of the navigational details from a compartment now under water.

Late Saturday, firefighters who had been searching the Costa Concordia for those who remain missing heard distinct shouts, "one in a male voice, the other in a female voice" coming from the cruiser liner, Coast guard officer Marcello Fertitta said.

They turned out to be a honeymooning South Korean couple, who were brought out in good condition, Prato fire Cmdr. Vincenzo Bennardo told The Associated Press from the scene.

The terrifying, chaotic escape from the luxury liner was straight out of a scene from "Titanic" for many of the 4,000-plus passengers and crew on the ship, which ran aground off the Italian coast late Friday and flipped on its side.

Many passengers complained the crew didn't give them good directions on how to evacuate and once the emergency became clear, delayed lowering the lifeboats until the ship was listing too heavily for many to be released.

Several other passengers said crew members told passengers for 45 minutes that there was a simple "technical problem" that had caused the lights to go off.

Passengers said they had never participated in an evacuation drill, although one had been scheduled for Saturday. The cruise began on Jan. 7.

Costa Crociera SpA, which is owned by the U.S.-based cruise giant Carnival Corp., defended the actions of its crew and said it was cooperating with the investigation. Carnival Corp. issued a statement expressing sympathy that didn't address the allegations of delayed evacuation.

The captain, Francesco Schettino, was detained for questioning by prosecutors, investigating him for suspected manslaughter, abandoning ship before all others, and causing a shipwreck, state TV and Sky TV said. Prosecutor Francesco Verusio was quoted by the ANSA news agency as saying Schettino deliberately chose a route that was too close to shore.

France said two of the confirmed victims were Frenchmen; a Peruvian diplomat identified the third victim as Tomas Alberto Costilla Mendoza, 49, a crewman from Peru. Some 30 people were injured, at least two seriously.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said some 300 of the crew members were Filipinos and that three of them were injured.

Anello Fiorentino, captain of a ferry that runs between Giglio and the mainland, said he makes the crossing every day without encountering problems.

"Yes, if you get near the coast there are reefs, but this is a stretch of sea where all the ships can safely pass," he said.

Islanders on Giglio opened up their homes and businesses to accommodate the sudden rush of survivors.

Rossana Bafigi, who runs a newsstand, said she was really moved by the reaction of the passengers.

She showed a note left by one Italian family that said, "We want to repay you for the disturbance. Please call us, we took milk and biscuits for the children. Claudia."

GAS

From Page 1

highest pump price for regular gas at $4.058 a gallon, followed by Alaska with $3.898 a gallon, AAA data shows. Utah and Wyoming, meanwhile, have the lowest pump prices at $2.918 and $2.992 a gallon, respectively.

On Rota, regular unleaded gasoline is now $5.75 a gallon and diesel fuel is now $6.70 a gallon, based on the prices at the Sasanhaya Service Station. Its competition, Luta Gas, also sells regular gas for $5.75, but does not carry diesel.

A 44-year-old motorist on Rota said yesterday that the latest gas price increase is an added financial burden, especially because he's earning only the CNMI's minimum wage of $5.05 an hour.

"For gas alone, I spend about $100 a month and my driving is mostly from home to work and vice versa. I limit my driving because I'm trying to save on gas. It's too costly on Rota. We also do carpooling. I don't even use air-conditioner at home anymore to save money," the Songsong resident told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Tinian, regular unleaded gasoline is now $5.759 a gallon and diesel is now $6.349 a gallon at Tinian Fuel Services Inc.

Its competition, SN Five, has yet to change its prices so its regular unleaded gasoline remains at $5.609 a gallon, a gas attendant said yesterday afternoon. The employee said once they receive the next fuel shipment bought at a higher price, they will also increase their prices.

A restaurant employee on Tinian said yesterday that while she earns $5.10 an hour, which is only 5 cents more than the minimum wage, the latest 10-cent increase in prices will make it even "harder to budget."

The 30-year-old mother of three said their work hours have been cut by four hours, from the regular 80 to 76 hours biweekly.

"On Tinian, almost everything has a high price, especially gas. It is difficult to budget when everything you buy goes up and your work pay goes down. So I have to work at least more than an hour to be able to afford one gallon of regular gas, which is now $5.75 per gallon," the Marpo resident said in a phone interview.

Prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

MANTA

From Page 1

SSHS will join selected cadets from Rota and Tinian high schools who will comprise the official CNMI delegates to the 8th DBE Drill Competition in Long Beach, California on Feb. 18.

Saturday's contest was dubbed the "Battle Drill for Long Beach," which saw the participation of cadets from Kagman High School, adjudged the second best team; Marianas High School, adjudged the second top team; and SSHS, the overall winner.

Lt. Col. Robert Gay, Public School System director of U.S. Army instruction, told *Saipan Tribune* that this will be the first time that the CNMI Team will be competing in the regional level and the only one to represent the Pacific area that includes Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa, South Korea, and Japan.

A total of 32 cadets will form the CNMI Team, with 16 coming from SSHS that will compete in the regional armed drill. Sixteen cadets will come from Tinian and Rota and they will compete in the unarmed drill exhibition.

Gay said he expects the group to do "really well" at the regional event. If they win the prestigious regional title, that will entitle them to compete in the national contest in Kentucky.

He said the NMI Team will conduct a two-day practice at the competition site prior to the contest proper.

"I saw a lot of pride [today]…and I am very proud of all our cadets," he said about the overall turnout and performance of students last Saturday.

According to Sgt. Maj. Jesse Leon Guerrero, head of the evaluating team from Guam, Team CNMI will have a big chance at the regional event, based on what he saw last Saturday. "They have great potential of getting up there. I think they have a very good chance if they will continue to put in a great effort," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Leon Guerrero's team was among the 12 evaluators at Saturday's drill competition.

According to Charles Simon McEntee, SSHS commander for the inspection and armed regulation, the group spent more than a month of diligent practice and preparation for the special drill competition. Despite the limited time, he is proud of the team's achievement. "It was unexpected and we're very happy and proud that we made it!" he said.

McEntee believes that the team needs to exert more effort and sacrifice more in order to do well at the regional and national event.

The young commander attributes their latest success to the values they learned from the JROTC program, managing to handle all the pressures of the competition. "I think dedication and motivation is key [in our success today]," he said.

According to Mary Hocog, one of the team members from Rota/Tinian, their group has been diligently preparing for the regional contest and has been practicing with the other group. "I know we will do really good there… because we're very proud to represent the CNMI and show them what we got here," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Board of Education, through chairperson Marylou S. Ada and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, both congratulated the participating teams and awarded the championship trophy to the combined team of Tinian and Rota, which will compete in the unarmed drill competition in California.

"Today is a historical moment as we capture the best among the drill teams that's going to represent the CNMI and the Pacific region in the Long Beach competition next month. We thank our evaluators from Guam and the Army Reserve, the JROTC for the hard work. This is really an important event because our students will compete—for the first time—at the regional level, which will allow them to showcase their discipline and exceptional talents," said Sablan.

The commissioner described the JROTC program as among PSS' exemplary programs which develop important values for students. She expressed interest in joining the team at the regional event to provide support and witness their performance.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

across the board," Taitano told *Saipan Tribune*.

Douglas Brennan, Chamber president, said the Chamber has spoken with current Fund retirees who have said that the "most realistic" cut in pensions they are "more than willing to agree to" is 5 percent to 7 percent.

"That, combined with larger reductions in benefits paid to retired legislators, governors, lieutenant governors, secretaries, directors, judges and other high-income earners would decrease the $70 million annually paid out," Brennan said.

He said any reduction in paid benefits should immediately be invested to earn badly needed income for the Retirement Fund.

"If 50 percent of that $70 million were invested, the Fund would correct its downward spiral," he said.

Brennan said the Chamber believes the much more can be accomplished through further reductions in the CNMI government's spending.

In fiscal year 2011, for example, preliminary government data shows a $25.8 million budget deficit, bringing the cumulative figure to some $370 million. This, despite austerity measures that include 16-hour cuts biweekly and unpaid holidays.

Brennan said the bottom line is that "the CNMI government needs to function in a more business-like manner in order to protect and serve their employees."

"Through reductions in benefits to more realistic and sustainable levels and greater accountability to the island residents, voters and taxpayers, it is possible the Retirement Fund can be saved," he said.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), chair of the Special House Committee on the Retirement Fund, said her panel welcomes any suggestion, recommendation, or approach in trying to resolve the Fund's financial problems.

"As the old saying goes, two heads [are] better than one," Santos said, adding that the Chamber's suggestions will be taken into consideration as the committee prepares its findings and recommendations to the full House of Representatives.

Santos' committee has started conducting meetings with agencies affected by pending bills and initiatives that seek to help the Fund, and these include the Fund, the Department of Public Land,s and the Marianas Public Land Trust. The next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday.

The freshman lawmaker said they also plan to call in retirees and the public to directly hear from them their recommendations on how to save the Fund, as well as their comments on proposals to save the pension agency.

Brennan said the Chamber believes the Fund "should more closely mirror other existing retirement programs."

"The CNMI Retirement Fund benefits for retirees are almost unprecedented. That, combined with Fund contribution rates for CNMI employees and the government, have led to the Retirement Fund 'perfect storm' we are now witnessing during the CNMI's sharp economic decline," said Brennan, who is also the general manager of Microl Corp.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, said this is the first time in its history that it is stating its position on what should be done to improve the Fund's fiscal condition.

"Our interest in the stability of the Fund is purely economic. The CNMI and its employees now comprise our single largest consumer group. We need to protect and preserve their livelihood. Allowing the Retirement Fund to collapse would have an extremely negative impact on our islands for many years to come. Government employees and retirees are terrified their 'golden years' will be spent in poverty," he said.

Brennan said the Chamber is offering the Fund, the Legislature, and the Office of the Governor its positions on how to improve the Fund's situation "as a result of the lack of fiscal integrity of the CNMI Retirement Fund, and after numerous attempts by the CNMI Legislature to increase taxes, add a sales tax, decrease rebates or tap other funding sources as a way to assist the NMIRF with its worsening condition."

The Chamber said a review of the information it has shows that the CNMI's 2010 fourth quarter deficit stood at approximately $330 million. Of that deficit, nearly 80 percent was a Retirement Fund debt liability, it said.

"If that Fund liability was retired in the proper manner, the CNMI government wouldn't really be that bad off," the Chamber said. "The CNMI, not that long ago, essentially had $250 million to spend. Today it's $100 million. Absolutely, all caution should be exercised to not further decrease revenue to the CNMI, but the real dilemma is to find ways to decrease the demand upon the Retirement Fund itself."

The Chamber said its Government Relations and Economic Development Committee and the board of directors maintain that one of the first steps that should be taken is to reduce the benefits currently being paid to current CNMI retirees, as well as to future Fund beneficiaries.

"An external audit should be undertaken to determine if there have been any irregularities in payouts, and if so, measures should be taken to recover those funds," it added.

Woman admits guilt in immigration document fraud

A woman with a prior conviction for marriage fraud has pleaded guilty in federal court, this time for submitting fraudulent immigration document and making false statement to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Delora Taman Bhuiyan pleaded guilty Thursday to a count of immigration document fraud as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government. She will be sentenced on April 13, 2012 at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge David O. Carter directed the U.S. Probation Office to submit a presentence investigation report by March 8, 2012.

Assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum represented the U.S. government in the case. Bhuiyan appeared with her court-appointed counsel, Bruce Berline

Federal agents arrested Delora Bhuiyan and Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan after an indictment was filed in the district court. The indictment charged Delora Bhuiyan with two counts of immigration document fraud and a count of false statement. It also charged Mohammed Bhuiyan with a count of immigration document fraud.

According to court papers, Delora Bhuiyan is also known as Delora Taman Hossuin, Delora Gang, Delora Meliong Itaman and Delora Meliong Taman.

According to the indictment, on March 30, 2009, Delora Bhuiyan, in response to questioning about her place of residence by a USCIS officer, stated that she lives in Susupe, Saipan. Delora Bhuiyan also claimed only one husband, Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan.

But, according to the indictment, Delora Bhuiyan in fact lived in China Town, Saipan, with someone other than her husband Mohammed Bhuiyan. On that date, March 30, 2009, Delora Bhuiyan was in fact married to both Mohammed Bhuiyan and Zheng Gang.

The two statements were material to USCIS's determination of Mohammed Bhuiyan's application for lawful permanent resident status.

On Feb. 2, 2011, Delora Bhuiyan allegedly gave a false statement to a Homeland Security Investigations special agent that she had lived with her husband Mohammed Bhuiyan in Susupe for the past two years.

Prior to that, in November 2009, the Office of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit arrested Delora Bhuiyan for engaging in a marriage fraud scheme. The OAG investigator learned that Bhuiyan married three alien residents—Mohammed Mokbul Hossuin, Mohammed Bhuiyan, and Zheng Gang—allowing these aliens to obtain Immediate Relative status.

Gang reportedly departed the CNMI in April 2009 and had not returned to the CNMI as of November 2009.

In February 2010, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman sentenced Delora Bhuiyan to a day in prison for marriage fraud. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Judge orders continued detention of ex-convict

The federal court has ordered the continued detention of an ex-convict who has been indicted for possession of a firearm and ammunition.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge David O. Carter on Thursday granted the request of the U.S. government to remand Justin Funkugub back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal pending further proceedings.

Carter stated that a change with Funkugub's situation may be heard at the next hearing.

Funkugub's arraignment will be on Feb. 15, 2012 at 10am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe is prosecuting the case. Court-appointed counsel Ramon Quichocho represented Funkugub.

The indictment charged Funkugub with a count of felon in possession of a firearm; a count of possession of a firearm with a removed, altered or obliterated serial number; and a count of felon in possession of ammunition.

The U.S. government noted that Funkugub was convicted on Sept. 21, 2000, of cattle killing.

On Oct. 11, 2011, Funkugub was allegedly caught in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber snub-nose revolver. The gun's manufacturer's serial number had been removed, altered, or obliterated, a violation of U.S. Code, according to the indictment. That same date, Funkugub also allegedly possessed six Winchester Super-X .22 caliber bullets.

In the Superior Court, Funkugub is also facing charges of assault and battery, unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, and disturbing the peace, over the same incident when he allegedly assaulted a relative and fired a handgun in As Teo. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NEW CONSTRUCTION HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Maeda Pacific Corp. employees work at the construction site for a future Micronesian Brokers (CNMI) Inc. warehouse and cold storage facility in Puerto Rico. This construction project is expected to be completed on March 31, 2012.

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- HILBERT HENRY C. SAN NICOLAS, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION No. 11-0322

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2012, by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

APPROXIMATELY 14,666 SQ. FT. PRIME OFFICE SPACE

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF) is soliciting proposals to lease approximately 14,666 square feet of prime office space on the second and third floors (approximately 7000 sq.ft. per floor) of the Retirement Fund Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. Ideally located across from the Governor's Office and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the building has a backup generator, 24-hour water service, and ample parking space for employees and visitors. Space is available for viewing immediately.

Minimum acceptable terms include the following:

- Per square foot per month, Triple Net (higher for less than full available footage);
- Lessee responsible for own utilities, as well as cost to separately meter;
- 24 months minimum lease term; and
- First month, last month and reasonable security deposit required (amount depends on credit history and financial strength of Lessee).

All proposals are subject to acceptance by the NMIRF Board of Trustees in its sole discretion.

/s/ RICHARD S. VILLAGOMEZ
Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund

EARN UP TO 3 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) CREDITS

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING UPDATES BY LEALAN (LEE) MILLER, CPA PARTNER, EIDE BAILLY LLP

SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, CNMI CHAPTER

When: Thursday, January 19, 2012

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Registration begins at 8:30am

Location: Giovanni, Hyatt Regency Saipan

Seminar Fee: $60 Per Person, Buffet lunch is included

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 18, 2012

To register or for more information, please contact Glenda P. Cabrera at 322-7337 ext. 237 or via email at glendacabrera@deloitte.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-005

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

The Bid Packet may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2012 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-005, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 19, 2012 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety firm holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Administrative Assistant, Procurement & Supply via mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

CNMI Water Task Force
IFB12-GOV-035

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 9, 2012**.

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **January 20, 2012** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked **"Lease of Warehouse", IFB12-GOV-035**. An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M. , local time, on February 7, 2012** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with Article 3, Part A, Section 3-102 of the Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

EEOC objects to $18K sought by hotel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owners of Saipan Grand Hotel are seeking an award of $18,824.21 for the costs they incurred to defend themselves against the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of a band singer.

EEOC objects, however, and has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the request of award. In the alternative, EEOC asked the court to reduce the requested award to only $4,697.64.

Attorney Steven P. Pixley, counsel for Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. and Tan Holdings Corp., pointed out that there is no dispute that his clients were the prevailing parties in the civil lawsuit. On Dec. 200, 2011, a jury returned a verdict in favor of the Asia Pacific and Tan Holdings.

"The defendants submit that the award of costs is appropriate in this civil action," Pixley said.

The lawyer cited Rule 54 (d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that provides for an award of costs in favor of the prevailing party.

Pixley requested a total award of $18,824.21 for costs of copying/printing documents, rough draft of trial transcripts, deposition expenses, expert witness fee, attorney travel and lodging expenses, and process service fee.

In EEOC's objection, trial attorney Derek W. Li said to award the substantial costs requested would have a "chilling effect" on future civil rights litigants in Saipan.

Li said the court or the clerk should exercise its discretion to deny the request for costs due to the special circumstances of the case. As an alternative, Li said the court or the clerk should exercise its discretion to substantially reduce the costs.

In the case, EEOC had alleged that Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. and Tan Holdings Inc. allowed a band singer to be subjected to sexual harassment that was severe enough to create a hostile, abusive work environment.

EEOC alleged that Tomas Alegre, the then hotel's restaurant manager, subjected the singer to unwelcome touching of a sexual nature in her hotel room in the early morning of Jan. 2, 2008.

In his deposition, Alegre, who is now based in the Philippines, said that he had a consensual relationship with the singer. Alegre disclosed, among other things, that the singer, who was drunk at the time, invited him to her room.

The jurors later sided with the defense, saying that EEOC failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence its claims that defendants subjected the signer to a sexually abusive or hostile work environment.

Zoning to look into alleged illegal auto shop

The Zoning Office will look into an alleged illegal auto shop in As Terlaje following a complaint made at the public hearing last Wednesday.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* Thursday that she was instructed by board chair Diego Blanco "to look into the matter and initiate aggressive enforcement."

Ogumoro disclosed that John Reyes of As Terlaje attended last week's public hearing and complained about an ongoing auto shop operation in the area that is believed to be operating without a permit.

The area is zoned as village commercial and although auto shop operation is allowed, the alleged operator does not have the proper permit.

Reyes alleged that the auto shop operation is open even during weekends, according to Ogumoro.

Ogumoro disclosed that they had previously met with the possible violator who was given verbal warning to cease any unpermitted action because of earlier complaints.

With this recent development, Ogumoro pointed out the need for her and the enforcement section to do an "investigation and take proper action."

"I will look into this matter again and make sure we take necessary aggressive enforcement of zoning law," she added. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

FIRST CLEANUP OF THE YEAR
Saipan Awaodori Team members Sheena Saures, Jester Kintaro, Freeman Defang, and Cody Litulumar take part in the monthly cleanup of PDM Promoters, Inc. on Saturday. The group collected 600 lbs of trash in the area.

Judiciary sets austerity schedule

With the limited financial resources provided to the Judiciary under the fiscal year 2012 budget, the CNMI Judicial Council has adopted necessary measures to implement a reduction of personnel work hours and courthouse hours of operation.

Through the end of January 2012 the courthouses on all three islands will be open with full operations except as noted below:

- **Saipan**: Closed on Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King holiday
- **Rota:** Closed on Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Holiday

Tinian: Closed on Jan. 30, austerity day

The courthouses' schedule of operations for February will be announced when it is established in the last week of January.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Clerk of Court's office phone number, 236-9765 on Saipan, 433-3410 on Tinian and 532-9422 Rota, or by contacting the Supreme Court's Public Information Office at 236-9716. ***(PR)***

Hundreds take part in JA kickoff rally

» 5 'companies' to compete in program's business awards, recognitions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 100 students from public high schools in the CNMI as took part in Friday's kickoff rally for the Public School System's Junior Achievement Company Program.

The program aims to cultivate work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy among students by engaging them in the practical experience of running a business.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, member of the State Board of Education, disclosed that a total of 125 students registered for the event.

The JA Company Program encompasses business, entrepreneurship, and economics curriculum for students in grades 9th through 12th. It emphasizes business content while providing a strong focus on social studies, mathematics, reading, and writing skills. Students under the program are encouraged to use innovative thinking to learn business skills that support positive attitudes as they explore and enhance their career aspirations. Outstanding participants will later be recognized through awards and recognitions.

Deleon Guerrero, himself a JA participant in high school, enumerated the great benefits he derived from joining the initiative. Besides gaining financial skills, he said the JA program also taught him good leadership and effective communications.

The JA program was last implemented in the Commonwealth in the 1990s. Its comeback this year is among Deleon Guerrero's initiatives.

To sustain the program's implementation, PSS has included the JA Company Program among its initiatives for high school students. This year, the NMI JA program is coordinated with the Guam chapter, which is affiliated with the national program.

According to Deleon Guerrero, five school teams will compete for business of the year, businessperson of the year, product of the year, and other recognitions that will be handed out at the end of the term.

5 competing teams

Each school team forms and actually operates a business throughout the program using "shares" as their starting capital.

With a 25-member limit per school team, the group will be assisted and guided by teacher advisers and volunteers from private businesses to come up with their own business product.

Participating teams include Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School, and Dr. Rita Inos Jr. and Sr. High School.

A trade fair is slated at the end of the program term where nominees will be recognized in an awards banquet.

Deleon Guerrero hinted that this year, CNMI winners may be sent to the Guam JA chapter to compete in their trade fair and may also join the national level competition, to be held in Hong Kong next year.

According to 12th grader Eric Devin Atalig of SSHS, the JA program will help him learn more about how to create a business. He hopes to build a sports equipment store someday and looks forward to the skills he would gain from joining the JA program.

Marianas High School sophomore student Richil Vila Pizarro also looks forward to the positive impact of the training on her future. "I joined this program because I know it will definitely help me in college," she said.

Friday's kickoff rally was in collaboration with the Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Development Authority, Department of Commerce, and other agencies and organizations. On Saturday, teacher-advisers and volunteers for the teams went through a training session with Guam JA officials and representatives.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar helps Kagman High School students build a skyscraper during a team-building activity on Friday.

GES student is overall winner in calendar contest

The CNMI Energy Division has named the winners of its 2012 Energy Poster Calendar winners.

The overall winner is Jeanica Bonachita, a 5th grader at Garapan Elementary School. Her winning poster will be featured for the month of October in observance of Energy Awareness Month.

The other 12 outstanding winners are: Ezekiel R. Alfred, 6th grade, Green Meadow School; Peggy Aizell Pixley, 6th grade, Grace Christian Academy; Kyana A. Rivera, 4th grade, Golden Harvest School; Keilani Barcinas, 6th grade, Sinapalo Elementary School; Querida Maratita, 6th grade, Sinapalo Elementary School; Kristen Joy N. Razon, 6th grade, Garapan Elementary School; Asie Atalig, 6th grade, Sinapalo Elementary School; Heong Chang Im, 6th grade, Grace Christian Academy; Shella Flores Kliu Sibetang, 4th grade, Garapan Elementary School; Matthew J. Corpuz, 3rd grade, San Vicente Elementary School; Mary Heather Jingco, 6th grade, Sinapalo Elementary School; and Inah Blas Camacho, 6th grade, Grace Christian Academy.

Each winning student will be presented with an Energy Savings Kit and a gift certificate redeemable at National Office Supply.

The calendar contest was open to all students in the CNMI from 1st through 6th grade with the theme relating to Energy Awareness: "Turn Words into Action, Action into Result." A total of 204 students participated for the contest.

The 2012 Energy Calendar will be available for distribution at the end of this month. Anyone interested in obtaining a calendar may contact the Energy Division at 664-4480/2 or visit the office located in Capitol Hill, Building NO.1337.

This project was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ***(DPW)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 03, containing an area of approximately 951 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Cheung, Pingyin and Yuan, Beihua.

The President/Treasurer of the Corporation is Cheung, Pingyin and the Vice-President/Secretary is Yuan, Beihua.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with several business activities such as tour agency, a restaurant, a car rental, automobile repair shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 26, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensiona para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 094 D 03, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 951 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Man Bao Corporation, CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Corporation siha si Cheung, Pingyin yan si Yuan Beihua.

I Presidenti /Tresureru gi Corporation si Cheung, Pingyin yan i Sigundu Presidenti/Sekritåriu si Yuan, Beihua.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Antonio Rasiang.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa o lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan managing facility yan pulu aktibidåt bisnis siha tåtkumu our agency, sagan chumotchu, atkilon kareta, shop manareklan tumobit.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru 26, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 094 D 03, eyoor tiwabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(951 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Arabwal, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Man Bao, eew CNMI Corporation. Schóól assamwoolul Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin , me Yuan, Beihua.

Samwoolul/Treseróru (President/Treasurer) Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin me aruschayúl Samwool/Sekkretaria (Vice President/Secretary) nge Yuan, Beihua.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me lemeli eew facilidóód il business rel tour agency, leliyal mwungo(restaurant), car rental, ferúl ghareta (automobile repair shop) me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw, me bwal meta kka e akkayu llól bwuley yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 26, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

A. Samoa governor backs expanding marine sanctuary

» Dismisses claims that expansion infringes on cultural matters

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, (Samoa News/PIR)—Gov. Togiola Tulafono has described comments by those opposing the expansion of the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary as "selfish" and dismissed claims by opponents that the proposal will infringe on cultural matters in American Samoa.

Togiola has come out publicly in support of the expansion on his radio programs and again during his State of the Territory Address on Monday before a joint Fono session, telling lawmakers that the American Samoa government is in full support of the proposed rule to add five more units to the sanctuary.

The governor made this point very clear in his Jan. 6 letter to Dr. Jane Lubchenco, the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans & Atmosphere with the U.S. Commerce Department, which oversees NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"I write to express my full support of the proposed management plan and the expansion plans for the marine sanctuary in American Samoa," the governor wrote. "...I truly believe this proposal will propel the conservation efforts and collaborations between the United States government and American Samoa to much higher and more effective level."

"I have observed and listened with great concern the level of selfish comments being offered in opposition of the proposed plans, and even citing cultural and traditional reasons that has (sic) been misrepresented in the comments and irrelevant considerations just to launch an objection," the governor declared.

He says the opposing comments reminded him of the time the Coastal Zone Management law was proposed in the local legislature for the first time in the mid 1980s, when he was a Senator.

He said he heard similar excuses being propounded, claiming that it was going to affect the culture; that it was against traditional management of traditional lands, especially wetlands, and resources.

"Today, no one in American Samoa disputes the value of the vision that helped put that statute in place," he said, adding that he was glad that he supported the CZM at that time.

Regarding the sanctuary expansion proposal, Togiola gave assurance that the FBNMS and their Territorial Co-Managers at the local Commerce Department "followed a culturally correct protocol developed in consultation... with the Office of Samoan Affairs to address how to approach villages, families and citizens of American Samoa."

"The meetings to comment on these proposals, to my knowledge, followed the protocol established with Samoan Affairs, to meet the concerns of our local village councils and communities by holding those meetings in ways that follow practices of Samoan culture for generations," he said.

The governor did note a "specific concern" with regards to permitting, that NOAA proposes granting the US Departments of Commerce (USDOC) and the US Department of the Interior (USDOI) "with what appears to me as an open exception to the prohibitions, for the conduct of scientific activities within the 'Muliava' unit." (Muliava is the Samoan name use for Rose Atoll).

"I am afraid that such unrestricted and unregulated open exceptions may prove counterproductive to the goals for this monument," he said. I would like to see a process in place to determine the needs and scope of such research in order to be assured of the continuing integrity of this monument."

He recommends the application of permit requirements for all sanctuary units, making them applicable to all including all federal agencies.

"I have indicated my full support of the idea when it was first proposed, and I continue to support the efforts to bring it to fruition in the effort to effect better management, preservation and wise use of our important marine resources," said Togiola adding that he fully supports Alternative 3B, which includes the proposal for a sanctuary site in Ta'u, Manu'a Islands. (Alternative 3A does not include a sanctuary site in Ta'u, just the other four units)

"I totally agree with the vision that establishing a sanctuary unit in Ta'u will not only serve to protect and manage these incredible resources, it will also bring to the residents of Manu'a, Tutuila, Aunuu and Swains, the benefits that are articulated in the management plan," he said. "We have already seen many of those benefits with the existence of Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. It is the right thing to do for the people of American Samoa today and her future generations."

Also supportive of Alternative 3B is the Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), which extends protection to "the uniquely large coral communities on Ta'u," wrote Hideyo Hattori, the CRAG's coral reef initiative coordinator in a Jan. 6 letter to Gene Brighouse, superintendent of the FBNMS.

The expansion of the sanctuary to include five additional units, "falls under large CRAG and Territorial marine protected areas network development efforts, specially as they relate to the conservation of coral reef ecosystems, increasing understanding and awareness of our marine environment, enhancement of Samoan culture heritage and increasing socio-economic opportunities such as the potential development of ecotourism," said Hattori.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters, Inc. pose for a group photo after their first cleanup in Garapan this 2012 last Saturday. The group hauled 600 lbs of trash.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PDM hauls 600 lbs of trash in 1st cleanup for '12

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Non-profit organization PDM Promoters, Inc. held its first monthly cleanup in Garapan for 2012 last Saturday.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters said a total of 18 volunteers, including five members of the Saipan Awaodori Team, took part in the monthly event that collected 600 lbs of trash in the area.

"We want to continue our advocacy to protect our environment and maintain the cleanliness of our island so we started the year right with our regular cleanup," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The group, which holds its monthly cleanup every first Saturday of the month, picked up trash along Coral Tree Avenue to the Garapan Fire Station along Beach Road up to the Joeten Hafa Adai Center area.

Siwa said that volunteers also provided bush cutting services, removed dried leaves from blocked drainages, and got rid of dried leaves on road islands.

She explained that they decided to extend their volunteer work to the road islands since the Division of Parks and Recreation, tasked to maintain the area, is closed on Fridays due to government austerity.

"We try to help as much as we can," added Siwa.

PDM Promoters, Inc. thanks the Division of Environmental Quality for providing them with trash supplies and Dickerson & Quinn for taking care of the refreshments of the volunteers.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 16, 2001

Drive vs abortion gains ground
Noting the need to call attention to the sanctity of life and family values on the islands, the House of Representatives has joined various church groups to mark January as "Celebration of Life" month. Legislators backed activities initiated by the religious sector to oppose moves advocating abortion and to promote pro-life values among island residents. In a resolution adopted last week, they maintained it is in the best interest of all people in the CNMI to work together to "promote abstinence, responsible behaviors and the delayed onset of sexual activity in an effort to prevent pregnancy among adolescents."

Program eyed to curb growing delinquency
The Commonwealth Development Authority is eyeing the institution of a program that would help curb the increasing volume of delinquent borrowers in light of worsening economic condition on the island. CDA corporate division officials will sit down today to discuss possible ways to assist borrowers cope with their financial obligation amid hard economic times, according to Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio. The government's major lending arm has been swamped with concerns on the increasing delinquency rate, as well as requests from borrowers for loan restructuring to allow them more time to settle their credit.

Jan. 16, 2002

Recession cuts through ranks of garment makers
January brought no good news to the ranks of garment makers, whose numbers are expected to shrink in the coming months in the wake of the U.S. recession and economic upheaval emanating from the 9/11 tragedy. Combined with warm weather leading up to Christmas, worldwide apparel sales were clobbered, particularly in December, despite being the traditional time to splurge and make merry. Faced with mounting goods that just wouldn't get sold even at the peak of the shopping season, retailers were dropping prices by as much as 70 percent. The pain of the steep markdowns will surely be felt all the way down the retail supply chain but industry watchers are saying the brunt will be borne not by the stores, but by the apparel makers and wholesalers.

Bomb threat on BB's first day in office
Local emergency units yesterday responded to a bomb threat at the Department of Labor and Immigration office in San Antonio, barely a day after the new administration took control of the CNMI government. The bomb threat, which virtually welcomed the administration of Gov. Juan N. Babauta, is also the first incident reported this year, following a series of prank calls received by different government offices after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. "We got a call this afternoon, I think at about 2:05pm. One of the staff of the administration office received the call," said acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Jeff Camacho.

Jan. 16, 2003

OPM running out of patience over 'inaction' to SB 13-114
The Office of Personnel Management aired frustration over the slow-paced action on the pending legislation that was hoped to end the long-standing Public Law 13-1 controversy, saying the impasse is preventing the agency from fulfilling its responsibilities. Personnel Director Juan I. Tenorio expressed his disappointment to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, adding that if the Legislature fails to take action soon, he would have to take the necessary steps to implement PL 13-1. That law amended sections of the Commonwealth Code, expanding the ranks of excepted service employees to include those under the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Resident Representative to the U.S. and the municipal councils for each senatorial district.

NMC's use of tax credit money questioned
Saipan Rep. Stanley Torres has questioned the Northern Marianas College's alleged use of some $10,000 education tax credit money as payment for a visiting resource speaker in November 2002. In his Jan. 13, letter to NMC president Kenneth Wright, Torres said the college administration channeled the money that was meant for the students to "a needless training session on Saipan." "The most ironic and questionable part of this 'fundraising' training deal is that NMC used $10,000 from local Educational Tax Credit donations, which should have gone directly to NMC students' needs," said Torres.

About 60 students of Marianas High School's Advanced Placement World History Class under Dr. Chas Algaier have their picture taken after the coffee house trial held at the Java Joe's Coffee & Espresso Bar in Dandan. CLARISSA V. DAVID

Defense team wins this year's edition of 'coffee house trial'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense team prevailed over the prosecution during the "coffee house trial" held Saturday as part of the requirement of the Marianas High School's Advanced Placement World History Class under Dr. Chas Algaier.

About 60 students from two different classes took part in the annual activity, held at the Java Joe's Coffee & Espresso Bar in Dandan.

The event aims to simulate and examine issues that affect world history as part of the subject's unit 3 lesson. Simulation is the process of imitation of some real thing, state of affairs, or process. The act of simulating something generally entails representing certain key characteristics or behaviors of a selected physical or abstract system.

Both the defense and prosecution teams presented their arguments to decide on the merits of five key points: 1) the existence of coffee houses poses a threat to the social order worldwide; 2) coffee houses disrupt traditional patterns of life; 3) coffee houses result in an adverse economic effect; 4) coffee houses serve an unhealthy drink invented by non-Christians; and 5) coffee houses provide a forum for sedition against the government.

Students Aurora F. David, Garry Gottwald, Bruce Li, Don Sulat, and Renandra Dizon comprised the lawyers in the prosecution team. Their witnesses were Janet Estrellado as Marie Antoinette, Richard Quan as William Harvey, Lester Garcia as Khair Beig, Fratcina Javan as Eleanor Rumming, with the special participation of assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing as Frederick the Great.

The defense lawyers consisted of Maria Theresa Dizon, Lauren Hofschneider, Mike Johnson, Ayvee Villegas, and Lynda Wally. Their witnesses included Patrishia Echavez as Voltaire, Ionnie Camille Castro as Haji Sabrina Daneem, Melanie Nakamura as Thomas Jefferson, Aiko Erungel as coffee shop owner Abigail Teunis, with the special participation of Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. attorney Jeanne Rayphand as Jeanne Dela Roque.

The 10-member jury composed of Edward F. Taimanao, Danica Domingo, Danica Guevarra, Jacklyn Garote, Ryan Vicente, Jenny Habijan, Sheena Serrano, Esther Choi, Janine Estrellado, and Leigh Anne Gases agreed after deliberation that the defense panel won their arguments on 4 of the 5 key points.

Sixteen-year-old juror Janine Estrellado said they were initially divided and had a hard time making a decision but were able to come to one in the end. She described the defense team as "clear, very decisive, and very confident with what they stood for."

Although the prosecution had a lot of strong points, Estrellado said they "lack further information and they weren't really clear with what they're saying."

When asked to describe the experience, Estrellado said, "It was thrilling, worthwhile and so fun."

Aurora F. David, a freshman and one of the prosecutors, said in an interview before the jury made its decision that despite their tension and anxiety, the trial went well for their team.

"Everyone did their research and everyone did their questions," said David who has previous mock trial experience. "Even though we're so nervous, we told ourselves that we can do this. Whatever happens, win or lose, we can do this."

Lauren Hofschneider, a defense attorney, said she was "really shocked" that they won most of the arguments because she believes the prosecution also "did a really great job."

"It was an amazing feeling. I think it really goes to the teamwork of everybody else in the group," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that she will have the experience to bring with her when she goes to college next year.

Rayphand commended the students' performances. "They worked hard on it… It's a classroom exercise and I think they did great."

An educator in the CNMI for 17 years, Algaier said the students were only given the charges, some resources, and role assignments "and then it's on them to decide how they proceed."

"All the students had outstanding performance. I thought they were very well prepared and they did a lot of original research, they found lots of sources. They did what Advance Placement students are supposed to do," he said.

Algaier, who was MHS' Teacher of the Year last year, said he has been conducting the coffee trial activity for his class for about seven years now and this is the first time he combined two classes.

"I believe that if you set a challenge before students and set the bar very high and expect them to jump over the bar, they will do so," he added.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 2nd birthday to Ka'mea Jordyn Oxales Reyes! May you have many more birthdays to come. God bless and we love you. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and the family.

Implementation of Navy base access system begins Jan. 26

SANTA RITA, Guam—Full implementation of the previously announced Navy Commercial Access Control System at Naval Base Guam will begin Jan. 26 for all contractors, suppliers and vendors who have registered and received their NCACS credentials.

For contractors who have enrolled but have not received their new credentials, the NCACS Flash Pass (45-day pass) will remain an authorized pass for entry to the installation until credentials are issued.

NCACS participation is voluntary. Contractors and vendors who choose not to register to utilize the NCACS program may request a one-day personnel/vehicle pass each day they wish to enter the installation.

The NCACS program, which uses the contracted security database system RAPIDGate, is being implemented in accordance with Commander, Navy Installations Command Notice 5530. The program applies to all contractors, vendors, subcontractors, and service providers who are not authorized a Common Access Card and regularly access Navy installations. The program increases the security posture of each installation while offering streamlined access for contractors and vendors.

Organizations that choose to participate in the NCACS program will have access onto the installations during the hours needed to perform business. Contractors and vendors are encouraged to register as soon as they identify the need to access Navy installations as it may take several weeks for participants to receive credentials.

For more information about the NCACS program, call (877) 727-4342 or send an email to info@rapidgate.com. Enrollment forms are available online at www.RAPIDGate.com. Employees can register once their company codes have been received.

All NCACS-related registration or one-day pass requests occur at the NCACS Center, which is the former Pass and ID office, located in front of the Naval Base Guam main gate, from 6am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. ***(USN)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marianas Pa'gu to feature Buckingham

Marianas Pa'gu: Marianas Perspectives, with host and producer John "Bolis" Gonzales will feature CNMI Attorney General Ed Buckingham on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012, in a conversation about the AG's Office, its relationship with agencies, and who the AG is beholden to watch nightly during primetime on ABC Ch. 7 from 6pm to 7pm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Shows also air on www.betelnutradio.com. For questions, appearance, or sponsorship, contact 285-META (6382) or email johnogonzales@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 17 and 20, from 11am to 4pm.

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

Opinion

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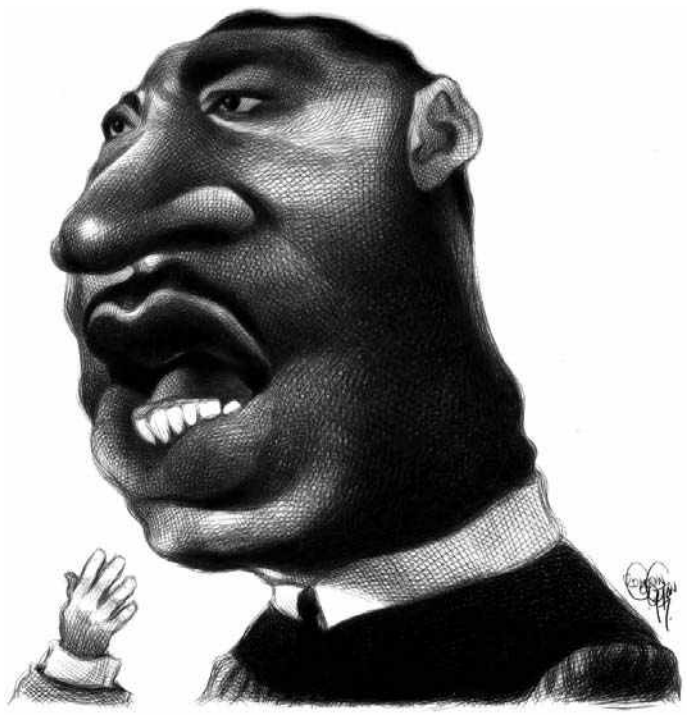


Reflections on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By KEVIN ALEXANDER GRAY
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

I listen to Martin Luther King's speeches and sermons over and over again like some people listen to popular songs. I have my favorites, such as "The Other America," "Where Do We Go from Here," "The Drum Major Instinct," and "How Long, Not Long." I like these better than the "I Have a Dream" speech because they have more substance.

In "The Drum Major" sermon, King said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve"—regardless of your station in life. In "The Other America" speech, King preached about wasting billions on an "ill-considered war" while neglecting the poor here in America.

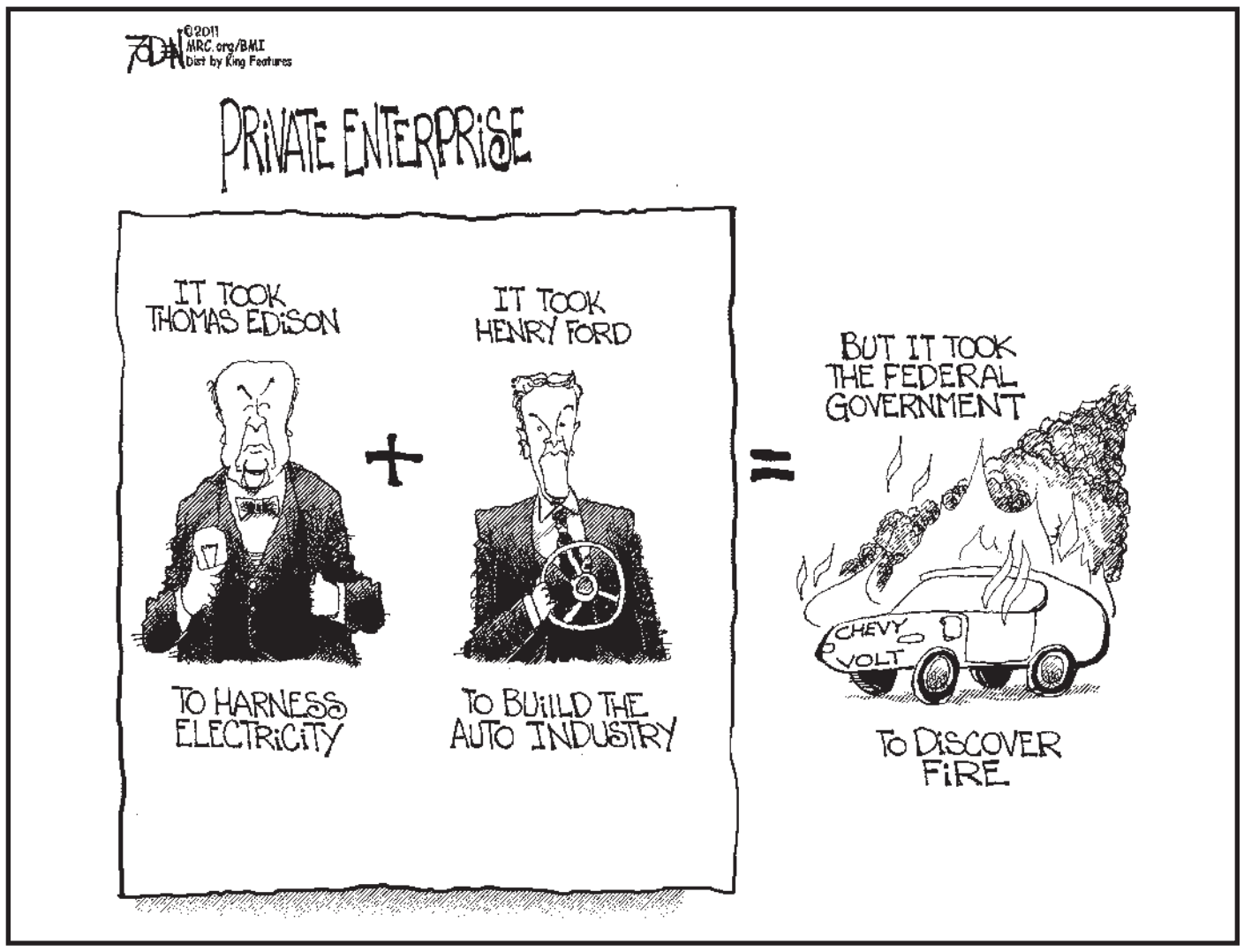
When you examine the levels of poverty and unemployment in the nation today, I believe that King would determine that the nation had failed to heed his vision of jobs, justice and peace. These days it's hard to compete with the mainstream's success in making King just a starry-eyed "dreamer" and a commercial commodity.

I was watching a football game during the holiday season when a commercial from one of the major retail chains announcing its MLK Day Sale popped up on the screen. It didn't even use an image of King, just the initials "MLK," accompanied by an array of appliances marked down for "the one-day event."

Looking back to the dedication of the King Memorial on the Mall in Washington this past October, you couldn't ignore the many corporate sponsors of the monument. The list of supporters was a who's who of American business—General Motors, Tommy Hilfiger, Verizon, General Electric and Walmart, just to name a few.

Even so, I'm always thankful when Martin Luther King Jr. Day comes around. Whatever the advertisers try to sell you and the politicians try to tell you, King's message of unconditional love and nonviolent redemptive good and his steadfast attack on the evils of racism, poverty and militarism just cannot be ignored. They can try to co-opt him, but his image is always going to look odd next to a washing machine or a hamburger or a self-serving politician.

Kevin Alexander Gray is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.



Have we forgotten our New Year's resolutions already?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

We are now entering our third week of the New Year. How are our resolutions going to date? Have we forgotten them? Are we determined to make 2012 a better year or will it be just as last year or even worse? Folks, it's really up to us.

For the past several years you have read my rants about the many things we can do to help ourselves and the acres of diamonds we have under our feet. Unfortunately some of us still are not listening or not believing this. We keep insisting that help will come from outside.

We seem to be waiting for a horde of foreign investors to swoop upon us with bundles of money and save us. We also dream of thousands of tourists overflowing with pockets of money flocking to Saipan, ready to empty them in the casinos. From that activity we know that all will be right with the CNMI. After all, isn't pandering to the baser emotions of people always lucrative?

However, what if we were to develop certain industries to produce various items? What if we were to cultivate our land with a plow and allow it to bear an abundance of fruits and vegetables? What if we were to glean fish from our oceans? Would any of these activities help restore us to prosperity? What if we were to export these items to, say, Guam or some other country and import much needed money? Does this sound reasonable or undoable?

Frankly speaking, I am running dry with preaching the same ideas over and over with little results. Frankly speaking, if some of us refuse to believe that true progress can only be made from our own efforts, I will still create these activities with the help of the few that believe. I will not give up preaching this message because there are people in the CNMI willing to work hard to achieve economic stability. We will hope that as some of us succeed, more of us will join in this movement until we realize that we can help ourselves. With the advent of the New Year, we can either keep the status quo or look ahead and work toward better times.

We cannot blame our leaders for what they are doing or not doing. Even if we elect new people to govern us we must still take control and demand changes. Remember, politicians are always worried about their jobs as we are about ours. So they will cause no friction that could unseat their positions. This is seen daily. They know as well as we the situation we are in. But will any of them risk controversy even when they know that the system is wrong?

Let's refresh our memories about some people who have changed the society in which we live by their perseverance even if it meant death to them. Jan. 16, 2012, Monday, we will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a national holiday. He is most famous for his speech "I have a dream" delivered on Aug. 28, 1963. Over 250,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C. when he uttered the immoral words:

"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

In his entire career Martin Luther King, Jr. championed to abolish racial discrimination against black people. Today we pay tribute to him as the man who never abandoned his belief in the struggle to bring equality among blacks and whites. In the end he was killed for his beliefs. Please read more about him today. His great impact has made the United States a better nation.

Another giant of a man is Nelson Mandela, the South African political activist. Though imprisoned for 27 years, he never gave up his determination to free his country from oppression. He even became the first freely elected president of South Africa.

Here are the names of several others who have created milestones despite hardships, misunderstandings, and great sacrifices. Hopefully they will remind us that they were just like us trying to survive but saw an injustice and spoke out against it. They chose to fight for their beliefs. As a side note, would you fight vigorously to maintain your religious beliefs if challenged?

The people listed below were determined against all odds to succeed. Eleanor Roosevelt was a powerful voice on behalf of a wide range of social causes, including youth employment and civil rights for blacks and women.

Consider the unknown young man who stood before a column of tanks near Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China. He became a great defender of peace.

Amelia Earhart, the first female aviator to cross the Atlantic on her own. She always followed her instinct.

Mahatma Gandhi was a great thinker, statesman and nationalist leader. He not only led his own country to independence but also influenced political activists of many persuasions throughout the world.

See RESOLUTIONS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mamamaila' tiempon ha'ilas

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Ti apmam yan pagu, u fatoigue hit guafen ha'ilas ya ufa' apu todu patte gi linala'ta guine, punta pot punta.

Chatpagu na litratu fumafana' hit lau estague' mamamaila' para hita todus. Ahe', ti espantun supin tasi este soluke abisu para i linahyan sa' esta ha falague hit.

I kantidan dibi yan mahuchum bisnis siha mas umatisa sumen homhum na futturu para hita yan famaguonta.

Lamegai mas u fan maliñgu che'chu' niha gi todu atmos banda. Mientras mas ha huchomgue' i bisnis, gi mismu tiempu mas menos i rinikohen tax para i gobietnu. Pininu' abilidatña kumontinua manapase ni presente na obligasioña, sueddu yan setbisiun publiku.

U fatoigue hit este na guafe 'nai fuetsau guaha gi empleau gobietnu debi umana' fañuha. I bisnis siha, hagas ha ribaha empleauña pot sumen baba i kinalamten na tiempu.

Kada familia siempre u kalamten para u kesoda' fanliheñgña 'nai mas didog i guafen sasalaguanchinatsaga guine. Piot ya magtus hinalom pagamientu gi pottanmonedan familia, magpu i nobena deste ayu na ha'ane.

I prumepara siha deste pagu ti u fan mama' apu. Lau i dumeskuida siha siempre uma-usune sinifan to'lañg para sentadan familia. Yangin guaha tinanom gi gualu', u fan mañgahat fuetsau sune, kamute yan mendioka maseha ti mafattu tiempoña. Kontodu gada' choda yan lemai siempre u fan mahoñgu' 'sino tife' para agun familia. I pigas mapo'lun ñaihon para espesiat na okasion lau kinanu nu i gutgohu.

I rumisisibe ayudun food stamps ha estira benefisioña ya hana' fan adumididi' i mas man-chatsaga na membron familia. Los dimas, ayu ha' siña ma-usune i hafa guaha gi gima'. Sumen makat na kontrariu para i ti rumesisibe este na ayudu.

Puede suette ya ti machule' ni bañku i primet na gima' familia siha. Guiya este i tiempon ha'ilas 'nai sumen pumoble i tanu. Megai para u fan sineñgge nu este na guafe.

Paguilistuyagaikeble,ensegidashamuebafamiliannihaparaGuam, Hawaii yan otru siha estados 'nai guaha mas appottunidat cho'chu'. Siempre fuetsau ta utot hafa hagas pinayonta sa' menos mas fuetsata. Esta ti parehu yan 'nai machuchuda koble ginen pottanmonedata antes. Ha hogse hit i chinatsagan sien años 'nai tat ekonomian nasion ti finigu' papa' esta i fondun pisun ha'ilas.

Palu diskuiduta na mama' sasalaguan i paraisun natibu. Lastima i ta proklalama gi un' kantatta, "Ya ti siña hu tulaika sa' tat mas gefsaga, kumu ayu siha na islas i Islas Marianas". Ti listuyu' lumie' guafen achu' butkan ni mamamaila' para una' fan tostus hit. Sasalaguan i hagas paraisun natibu. Sumen na'triste na fina'pos.

■■■

Yine'ase para i publiku

Gi mapos na semana mahatsa i presiun gaselina dies sientimos mas. Este na subrida, kumeke ilegña na siempr u kahulu' mas i apas "surcharge" ginen i CUC. Rason: Mas kahulu' i presiun laña ginen manu 'nai ha fafahan.

Dispues guaha lokue' prinipone para umahatsa i apas hanom. Fuera ke ennau, hita siempre ni publiku para u kinatga apas dibin CUC poku mas o'menos $10 miyon pesus. Dispues, muñeru i administrasion kumonduse halom i programan SNAP (mas mauleg na programan food stamps) pot gastun operasion programa.

I bintehaña i SNAP na programa i ha sedi todus empleau ni man-ma-utot oran niha gi che'chu' mañaunau guine na programa para u alibia i ma-utot sueddon niha. Estague' i mina' dañkulu mas i bintahan este na program. Lokue', mas megai na ayudu para u guaha para i mañasaunau guine na programa. I tautau ti man-mamamaisen para u fañochu guaguan na katnen guaka 'sino mahoñgañg soluke u guaha disiente yan antau na disision ginen i man-ma'gas niha gi Hegsu' I Deni'.

Equal rights and God: An MLK Day message

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

The battle for equal rights is heating up in the CNMI, fueled by Article 12. The quality of life in the CNMI is at an all-time-low since the conception of the Commonwealth and a big part of our solution to economic prosperity is Article 12—it is really that simple. The decision on who votes on Article 12 has proven to be the first volley and the opposition to the discrimination in voting rights has already returned fire in court. For those who don't know, the *only* Americans with special rights are the Native Americans because the country literally belonged to them first and was taken by force. But in the rest of America you will find that "a right for one citizen is a right for every citizen"—anything that violates this right is discrimination.

The people who are promoting and holding up the wall of social imperialism that is segregating the indigenous people from everyone else need to know that equality, like freedom, doesn't come without a price—it is now time to pay by sharing land but it is a price the social imperialist don't want to pay. Somebody told me the indigenous people joined the American family for the benefit of freedom and equal rights in the American family and they got them. But I know many of the indigenous people see it as wrong to deny equality in the CNMI. The problem is, it only takes one bad apple to spoil the entire barrel and the CNMI has much more than one bad apple and they are placed strategically from the top down to effectuate the molding and decaying process throughout the CNMI. You only need to look objectively!

It doesn't matter who these people are. What is more important is that they don't succeed in continuing this decaying process as we have seen our economy and quality of life continue to nosedive for the past decade. The CNMI set itself up for failure by making laws in our federal system that clearly segregate citizens in their rights, which by the way is a blatant violation of the supreme law and a clear indicator that we have a real problem in the CNMI.

Is the CNMI living up to the standards of equality when it asks mainland citizens to come to the CNMI and work for their entire career but tell them they can't ever own their house and go back when we finish using you, like we have done to the alien workforce? Is the CNMI living up to equality when there are full-page racist advertisements in the newspaper saying "vote for locals ONLY"? Is the CNMI living up to the standard of equality by black-balling non-locals from leadership in major institutions, organizations, and government? Outsiders only get top jobs when there are no locals that are qualified—and that is a fact! Is the CNMI living up to the standard of equal rights when the mainland citizens that have lived and worked in the CNMI for decades can't exercise their right to vote? But indigenous people in the U.S. mainland who are not contributing to the CNMI, with no intention of ever coming back, are allowed to vote! Equality dictates that a vote for one is a vote for all registered voters as they are the ones with a vested interest in the CNMI.

I know some will try to come up with the rationale that the CNMI does not vote in the presidential election. But they won't stop to think about the fact that the CNMI hasn't sent *one dime* to contribute to the U.S. government but has taken over a *billion* since becoming part of America—money that belonged to the very same citizens in the mainland that Article 12 discriminates against. The CNMI owes them over a billion dollars in gratitude and not one official thank you to date.

There are still a large number of people in the CNMI at the top of the pecking order who are still holding on to the frayed and decaying cloth made from the threads of racism, segregation, and discrimination in a fruitless attempt to clothed themselves in the past, as we witnessed in the Civil Rights Movement. But America was founded on the two primary pillars of freedom and equality and it took several centuries to get to where we are today. The CNMI is still an adolescent in its political age, which is why there have been so many political mistakes but it also means there will be big improvements with age. People must push the CNMI to grow up and become an adult that is fully accountable and held responsible by the people! Today in the CNMI, the people do not rule and proof can be found in the casino issue that has been constantly pushed in front of our faces for almost a decade. People said no too many times for this to still be an issue—a clear indicator of contempt for the people's decision.

The mainland citizens and indigenous citizens are all in this together and we will either find prosperity together the American way or we won't find it all! Dr. King once said, "If we don't learn to live together as brothers and sisters, then we will be doomed to die as fools." Dr. King also said that "the greatest right in America is the right to protest for right." Well I'm protesting the wrongs of the CNMI today, as it is still A Day On, not a Day Off because the civil rights struggle is still very much alive and well in the CNMI.

The power structure of the CNMI is led solely by locals—is it right or even wise to harbor all the power in the hands of the minority in the CNMI when our system is designed to help the majority? I'm here to tell you today that God ain't sleeping, the people asked to be part of America but many don't want to live up to the expectations of America and we wonder why we are suffering in the CNMI. The people said they would follow the American way of freedom and equality but the treatment of fellow citizens and the alien force tells us the CNMI has failed miserably to live up to the American expectations. The people wanted the same level of prosperity found in the mainland but didn't live up to American expectation of equal rights and now we are all suffering together mainly from that single failure in equal rights in all aspects of CNMI life. I was taught at a very early age that God expects you to take the first step and then he will make two for you. Well, the CNMI still hasn't completed that first step at setting the conditions for genuine freedom and equality for every American citizen in the CNMI's social, economic and political structure.

I will end by sharing the wisdom I got as a young man: "Love the life you live and live the life you want to live but make sure you live it for God, family and country or community." You can't live for God promoting segregation and discrimination—God doesn't discriminate. You can't work for family while promoting racism and social superiority—most families today have a diverse ethnic history, and you can't be working for your country or community when you want ethnicity to define leadership instead of a person's character and ability to lead!

RESOLUTIONS

From Page 10

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan Buddhists. Though in exile he still is serving his people.

Mother Teresa was the founder of missionaries of charity in India. Her devotion to the poor and oppressed is world-renowned. She saw the squalor and suffering of the Indian people and tried to help. A true saint.

The above are only a few names to help us believe in ourselves also. All of the above wept many hours of tears, suffered loneliness and depression. But the spirit in them never wavered. Think if they had caved in to outside influences and fears. There have been and are today thousands of people just like us who see the need to improve their society and dedicate their lives to improving it. Where would we be today had they wavered and quit when the going got tough?

Let us read some quotes that will help us understood our self better. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

Al Capp, the great cartoonist remarked: "Anyone who can walk to the welfare office can walk to work."

The Dalai Lama has stated: "Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from our own actions."

Thomas A. Edison wrote: "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Thomas Jefferson told a friend: "I'm a great believer in luck and the harder I work the more I have of it."

As you also have noticed in all my writings, I never try to criticize any man or woman in what and how they are performing their duties. My main objective is to stress that we as a group or as an individual can make major improvements in our society. To whine or simply complain is a cop out. We must get off our buts (excuses) and do it!

All of the things I have been writing about over the years boil down to one thing: Nations create their own destiny. It is never given to them. Their input determines their status in the league of nations. Individuals create their own prosperity and happiness. It is never given to them. Their input also determines their status. Simply put, if we are not willing to get our hands dirty and sweat on our brow, God help us. We are doomed to a life of mediocrity.

Keep *smiling*! If we cannot do anything else well, we can carry a big *smile* to share with each other. Have a great week!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

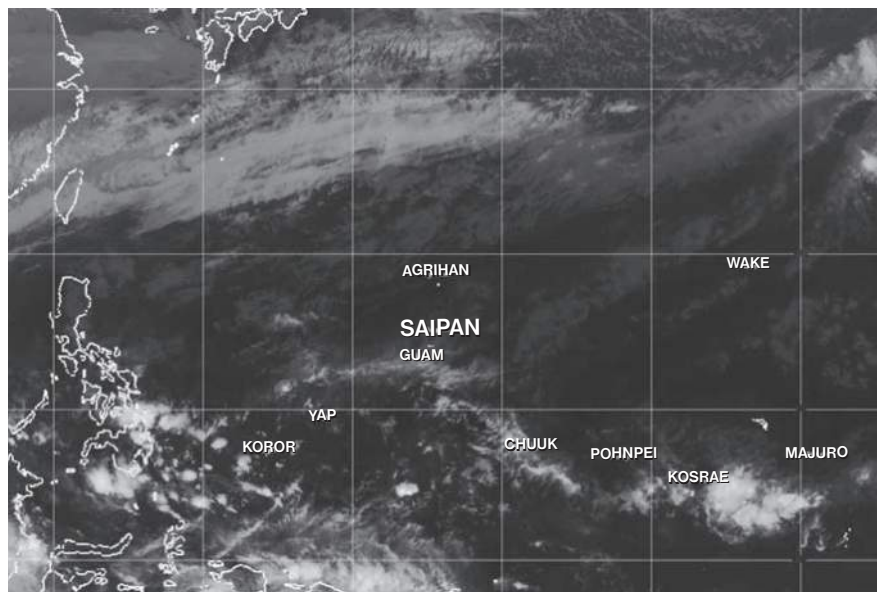
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲70	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼20
Hong Kong	Showers	▲63	▼60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
London	Sunny	▲43	▼33
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼39
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼68
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼62
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲35	▼31
Osaka	Sunny	▲51	▼38
Paris	Sunny	▲38	▼28
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼36
Rome	Sunny	▲55	▼37
Salem	Ice	▲39	▼35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲53	▼38
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼23
Tokyo	Sunny	▲48	▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼36

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25n180 across Wake Island to 17N160E then continues as a shear line just south of Guam to end near 9N135E. Cloudiness and widely scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from 2N130E to end near EQ144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror are southwest of a line from 8N130E to EQ140E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 3N and 7N from 150E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers east of Majuro between 4N and 9N from 173E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
12:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
7:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:35 AM
Tuesday	12:34 AM	12:24 PM
Wednesday	1:34 AM	1:16 PM
Thursday	2:35 AM	2:11 PM
Friday	3:36 AM	3:10 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
0Z604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Apple juice made in America? Think again.

NEW YORK (AP)—Which food revelation was more shocking this week?

Did it blow you away that low levels of a fungicide that isn't approved in the U.S. were discovered in some orange juice sold here? Yawn. Or was it the news that Brazil, where the fungicide-laced juice originated, produces a good portion of the orange pulpy stuff we drink? Gasp!

While the former may have sent prices for orange juice for delivery in March down 5.3 percent earlier this week, the latter came as a bombshell to some "Buy American" supporters. But that's not the only surprise lurking in government data about where the food we eat comes from.

Overall, America's insatiable desire to chomp on overseas food has been growing. About 16.8 percent of the food that we eat is imported from other countries, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, up from 11.3 percent two decades ago. Here are some other facts:

■ Not all juices are treated the same. About 99 percent of the grapefruit juice we drink is produced on American soil, while about a quarter of the orange juice is imported; more than 40 percent of that is from Brazil.

■ About half of the fresh fruit we eat comes from elsewhere. That's more than double the amount in 1975.

AP

In this Feb. 27, 2008 file photo, a Vietnamese woman works at a fish market in Nha Trang, Vietnam.

■ Some 86 percent of the shrimp, salmon, tilapia and other fish and shellfish we eat comes from other countries. That's up from about 56 percent in 1990.

Better communication (thank you, Internet) and transportation (thank you, faster planes) play a role in all the food importing. And in many cases, it's just become much cheaper to pay for shipping food from distant countries, where wages are often lower and expensive environmental rules often laxer than in the U.S.

Our expanding population—and bellies—also has made feeding people cheaply more important. The U.S. has about 309 million residents, as of the 2010 U.S. Census. In 1990, that number was about 249 million.

There's also a shift in our food psychology. New Americans—those who have immigrated from Latin America and other countries—want the foods that they enjoyed back home. Not to mention that Americans in general have come to expect that they should be able to buy blueberries, spinach and other things even when they're not in season in the U.S.

"This is about the expectation that we're going to have raspberries when it's snowing in Ithaca," said Marion Nestle, a food studies professor at New York University.

Of course, the U.S. government still has high standards when it comes to dining on vittles that were created elsewhere.

For instance, while 85 percent of the apple juice we drink is imported, only about 7 percent of the apples we eat are. Andy Jerardo, an economist at the USDA, says that's because the juice often comes from China, which produces apples that are inferior for snacking but good for drinking.

And we still get the majority of American dinner staples like wine, red meat and veggies from within the U.S. The U.S. is more inclined to import foods that can be easily stored and won't spoil quickly. For example, 44 percent of the dry peas and lentils Americans consume are imported.

Also, we're much less likely to import foods that we already grow a lot of here. Indeed, only about 1 percent of the sweet potatoes we eat—which grow plentifully in states like California and North Carolina—come from outside the nation's borders. And basically all of our cranberries are from U.S. places like Massachusetts and Oregon.

But stuff like fruit and fish can be a little trickier to gauge.

The USDA's Kristy Plattner says the percentage of imported fruit has grown because we're eating more tropical fruits. That's a result of two things: More Americans have ties to Latino cultures and as a nation, we're becoming more adventurous eaters.

So, even though we consume fewer apples than we did 30 years ago (about 15.4 pounds per person in the 2010-11 season, down from 19.2 pounds in 1980-81), we eat more mangos (about 2.2 pounds, up from about one-fourth of 1 pound). We also chow on more limes, lemons, kiwi, papayas and avocados.

S&P defends mass European downgrade

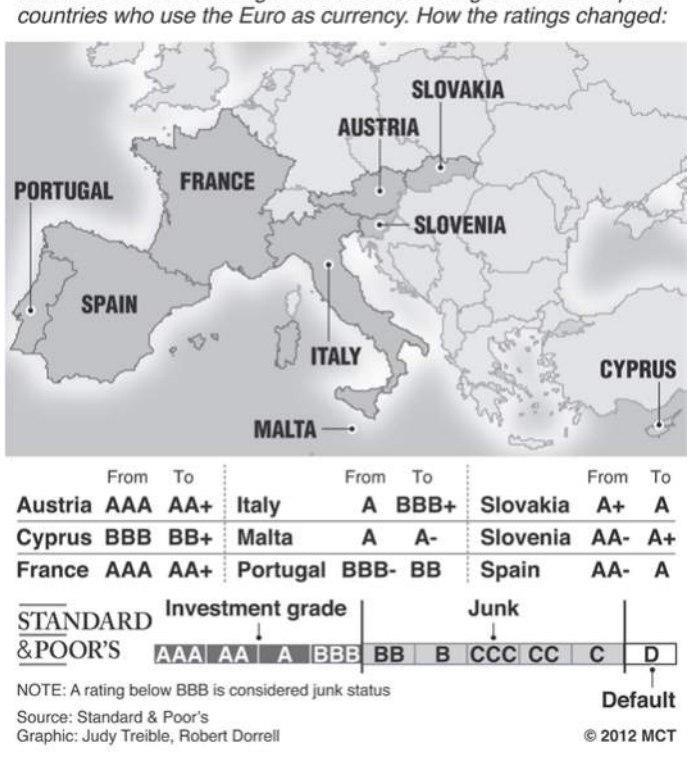
PARIS (AP)—Amid a wave of criticism, Standard & Poor's defended its decision to downgrade nine European countries and insisted Saturday that the region's leaders aren't doing enough to solve their debt crises.

The prime minister of France, the biggest economy hit by the downgrade, vowed to press ahead with cost-cutting measures that opponents say will suffocate growth. The loss of its coveted AAA status wounded France's self-image and market credibility just as it's facing a new recession and presidential elections.

The move Friday night may make it more expensive for struggling countries to borrow money, reduce debts and sustain growth. It also came just as crucial negotiations between the Greek government and its private creditors appeared close to collapse.

Voices rose up Saturday against the power that ratings agencies wield. Critics of S&P have questioned its credibility and relevance before because it failed to foresee the collapse in the U.S. subprime mortgage market, which helped trigger the financial meltdown of 2008.

The latest downgrade brought a downbeat end to a mildly encouraging week for Europe's most debt-laden nations. It also served as a reminder that the 17-country eurozone faces what German Chancellor Angela Merkel called a "long road" ahead to win back investors' confidence.



Cyprus President Dimitris Christofias called the downgrade "unacceptable."

"The latest downgrade is completely unfair and loaded with ulterior motives," he told reporters. "Just when the Cyprus economy is breathing easier and showing signs of emerging from the crisis, and when our financing needs for 2012 and perhaps beyond 2012, have been covered, a (credit ratings) agency comes along to downgrade."

Austria's chancellor criticized S&P's decision to strip his country of its AAA rating, and noted that his coalition government is working on an austerity package.

Werner Faymann wrote on his Facebook page that the decision showed "that Austria must become more independent from the financial markets."

In Germany, whose AAA rating remained untouched, a senior lawmaker with Merkel's conservative party, Michael Meister, suggested action to reduce the significance of ratings. Merkel signaled her support.

Germany's foreign minister called for independent European ratings agencies instead of relying solely on the leading, U.S.-based agencies such as Standard & Poor's.

And Vice Chancellor Philipp Roesler, who is also the economy minister, was quoted as telling the weekly Der Spiegel, "It is apparent time and again that U.S. rating agencies pursue very much their own goals."

Project to pour water into volcano to make power

By JEFF BARNARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geothermal energy developers plan to pump 24 million gallons of water into the side of a dormant volcano in Central Oregon this summer to demonstrate new technology they hope will give a boost to a green energy sector that has yet to live up to its promise.

They hope the water comes back to the surface fast enough and hot enough to create cheap, clean electricity that isn't dependent on sunny skies or stiff breezes—without shaking the earth and rattling the nerves of nearby residents.

Renewable energy has been held back by cheap natural gas, weak demand for power and waning political concern over global warming. Efforts to use the earth's heat to generate power, known as geothermal energy, have been further hampered by technical problems and worries that tapping it can cause earthquakes.

Even so, the federal government, Google and other investors are interested enough to bet $43 million on the Oregon project. They are helping AltaRock Energy, Inc. of Seattle and Davenport Newberry Holdings LLC of Stamford, Conn., demonstrate whether the next level in geothermal power development can work on the flanks of Newberrry Volcano, located about 20 miles south of Bend, Ore.

"We know the heat is there," said Susan Petty, president of AltaRock. "The big issue is can we circulate enough water through the system to make it economic."

The heat in the earth's crust has been used to generate power for more than a century. Engineers gather hot water or steam that bubbles near the surface and use it to spin a turbine that creates electricity. Most of those areas have been exploited. The new frontier is places with hot rocks, but no cracks in the rocks or water to deliver the steam.

To tap that heat—and grow geothermal energy from a tiny niche into an important source of green energy—engineers are working on a new technology called Enhanced Geothermal Systems.

"To build geothermal in a big way beyond where it is now requires new technology, and that is where EGS comes in," said Steve Hickman, a research geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, Calif.

Wells are drilled deep into the rock and water is pumped in, creating tiny fractures in the rock, a process known as hydroshearing.

Cold water is pumped down production wells into the reservoir, and the steam is drawn out.

Hydroshearing is similar to the process known as hydraulic fracturing, used to free natural gas from shale formations. But fracking uses chemical-laden fluids, and creates huge fractures. Pumping fracking wastewater deep underground for disposal likely led to recent earthquakes in Arkansas and Ohio.

Fears persist that cracking rock deep underground through hydroshearing can also lead to damaging quakes. EGS has other problems. It is hard to create a reservoir big enough to run a commercial power plant.

Nation

Romney rivals seek SC theme, champion to stop him

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—With a week left to halt Mitt Romney from sweeping to a third straight victory, his GOP rivals are struggling in South Carolina for a theme, momentum and most crucially, one strong challenger to consolidate conservatives' misgivings about the front-runner.

The dynamics that lifted Romney to wins in Iowa and New Hampshire seem to be working for him here, even though South Carolina is often described as too evangelical and culturally southern for his background.

In some ways, the former Massachusetts governor is lucky, benefitting from a fractured opposition that has divided the anti-Romney vote for months. In other ways he is benefiting from shrewd and well-organized supporters. He uses TV ads to shore up his weaknesses and to batter the rivals he sees as most threatening.

In Iowa, the target was former House speaker Newt Gingrich, who plummeted under the barrage. In South Carolina, it's former Sen. Rick Santorum, a longtime champion of home-schooling, anti-abortion efforts and other social conservative causes.

Santorum nearly won the Iowa caucus, and some consider him the best bet for unifying the anti-Romney vote.

But a private group that supports Romney is pounding Santorum in South Carolina with TV ads and mailings. So is Rep. Ron Paul, the libertarian-leaning candidate who helped attack Gingrich in Iowa.

Paul's ads are especially harsh. They vilify Santorum for pushing pork-barrel projects as a Pennsylvania senator, and they portray him as an insincere conservative.

A group of social conservative leaders meeting in Texas voted Saturday to recommend Santorum as the Romney alternative. But a portion of them preferred Gingrich, who denied Santorum a two-thirds majority on their first head-to-head ballot, said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

Perkins said the group's actions did not constitute an endorsement, adding that some participants will remain Gingrich supporters. He declined to say how he voted.

"Santorum was the preferred candidate by a significant majority," former presidential candidate Gary Bauer told The Associated Press by telephone from Texas. "They were all looking for the best Reagan conservative," he said. "It came down to things like, who do you most trust."

The Texas vote is obviously good news for Santorum. But it's unclear how much impact it will have in South Carolina's primary on Saturday.

The state is known for campaign surprises, and there's still time for twists and turns. Undercurrents of anti-Romney sentiment, perhaps fueled by his Mormonism, could be stronger than they seem.

LIFELINE FOR ALASKA AP

In this image provided by the U.S. Coast Guard The Kigluaik Mountains can be viewed as the Russian tanker Renda transits toward the Port of Nome Jan. 13, 2012. The tanker carrying much-needed fuel to Nome moored less than a half mile from the town's iced-in harbor Saturday evening, starting final preparations for delivering the diesel fuel and gasoline, the Coast Guard said. A fall storm prevented Nome from getting a fuel delivery by barge in November. Without the tanker delivery, supplies of diesel fuel, gasoline and home heating fuel Nome are expected to run out in March and April, well before a barge delivery again in late May or June.

A difficult start for new San Francisco sheriff

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ross Mirkarimi, San Francisco's first new sheriff in more than three decades, called his swearing in last Sunday "one of the happiest days of my life."

Not a week later, the popular progressive politician undoubtedly had one of his worst, ending with a mug shot.

Mirkarimi was charged Friday with battering his wife, booked by the very sheriff's deputies he now commands. And if convicted on the misdemeanor charges, he faces the distinction of becoming the only sheriff in California prohibited from carrying a gun. He also would be required to attend domestic violence classes, pay a $400 fine and could be put on probation for up to three years or sent to jail for up to a year

The district attorney's office charged him with domestic battery, child endangerment and dissuading a witness—charges he disputes.

"No one is above the law," District Attorney George Gascon told reporters after announcing the charges. "Whether this was the elected sheriff or any other San Francisco resident, this type of behavior is inexcusable, criminal, and will be prosecuted."

The investigation centers on a New Year's Eve incident in which Mirkarimi, 50, allegedly grabbed his wife, former Venezuelan telenovela star Eliana Lopez, bruising her upper right arm at their San Francisco home.

Mirkarimi

The sheriff's stormy first week in office followed a steady political rise, San Francisco style.

Mirkarimi, a member of the Board of Supervisors since 2004, won a close election in November to replace longtime progressive Sheriff Michael Hennessey. He was not backed by the deputies' union, but his name recognition and liberal politics helped him win the seat.

The Chicago-born son of an Iranian father, Mirkarimi has called San Francisco home for 27 years. He has master's degrees from Golden Gate University in Economics and the University of San Francisco in environmental science. He graduated from San Francisco's Police Academy and served nine years as an armed DA investigator.

As a county supervisor, representing a district that includes the Haight-Ashbury, Mirkarimi led the nation's first ban on plastic bags in grocery stores.

An advocate of legalizing medicinal marijuana, he was co-founder of the California Green Party and was the state coordinator for Ralph Nader's presidential bid in 2000. He became a Democrat a couple of years ago.

After the alleged domestic violence incident on Dec. 31, Mirkarimi's wife turned to a neighbor, who later contacted police. Authorities confiscated video the neighbor had taken of Lopez's arm and text messages between the two women.

Lopez later said in a written statement that the episode was "completely taken out of context." Mirkarimi, moments after he was sworn in, called the incident "a private matter, a family matter."

But on Friday, the somber sheriff appeared outside his City Hall office, telling gathered reporters that he would fight the charges and would not resign. "The charges are very unfounded," he said calmly.

Lopez, by his side, appeared dazed by the turn of events. "I don't have any complaint against my husband," she said. "This is unbelievable."

San Francisco is no stranger to political drama, even criminal charges being filed against high ranking law enforcement officials. In the "Fajita-gate" scandal of 2002, a late-night brawl by off-duty officers over fajitas led to the indictment of the police chief and his command staff on obstruction charges later found to be baseless.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 2 people wounded in shooting at Mo. mall

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A young man and woman were wounded Saturday in a shooting that locked down a suburban Kansas City mall and sent panicked shoppers running for cover. Independence police spokesman Tom Gentry said two young men have been identified as persons of interest in the afternoon shooting at Independence Center. He said the two men had an altercation with the victims while going through a doorway and the shooting happened when the two pairs met up later. Gentry said the victims were taken to a hospital with wounds that weren't considered life-threatening.

CA man suspected of poisoning wife's Rice Krispies

AZUSA, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California man has been arrested on suspicion of putting poison in his wife's cereal. Los Angeles County jail records show 43-year-old Fernando Porras of Azusa was being held on $1 million bail Saturday on suspicion of the attempted murder of his 51-year-old wife, Fernanda. Azusa police Cpl. Randy Schmidt says the woman noticed a horrible taste and smell Thursday in her Rice Krispies. Schmidt tells the San Gabriel Valley Tribune the woman was taken to a hospital, where police grew suspicious of her husband when he said he was going to smoke a cigarette, then disappeared. He was arrested about two miles away. Police allege Porras put a poisonous chemical in the cereal, but they didn't say what it was. Police Sgt. Dewayne Eldridge says the woman wasn't believed to be seriously harmed by the substance.

Up to 30 dolphins beach on Cape Cod, 10 to 12 dead

SCUSSET BEACH, Mass. (AP)—An animal welfare organization says up to 30 dolphins have been found stranded on five Cape Cod beaches, and only 11 were able to be released. Kerry Branon of the International Fund for Animal Welfare says the common dolphins were found in Dennis, Brewster, Orleans, Eastham and Wellfleet on Saturday. She says of the 28 to 30 dolphins found, 10 to 12 have died and eight were inaccessible to rescuers. Branon told The Associated Press the surviving dolphins were given blood tests and evaluated to determine their health, then some were tagged and released at Scusset Beach. The cause of the beaching could not immediately be determined.

Police in Calif. say homeless killer is in custody

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Investigators are "extremely confident" a man in custody is responsible for all four recent killings of homeless men in Orange County, Anaheim Police Chief John Welter said Saturday. Investigators have tied the killings to Itzcoatl Ocampo, 23, of Yorba Linda, who was detained Friday night after a fourth homeless man was stabbed to death in the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant. Witnesses and bystanders at the crime scene chased Ocampo on foot, and he was captured by a police officer who was part of a perimeter set up in response to dozens of 911 calls and other reports. Three homeless men have been found stabbed to death in north Orange County since mid-December, and a task force had been looking for the single suspect they believed was responsible for all three.

Asia

Crowds greet famous Myanmar activist after release

PYAY, Myanmar (AP)—Few convicts leave prison with their heads held high. Political detainees, like the several hundred released Friday under a presidential pardon in Myanmar, are a different matter. Unrepentant for the most part, they often leave jail toughened, if not energized.

Min Ko Naing is another case altogether.

His real name is Paw U Tun, but he is better known by his pseudonym, which means "Conqueror of Kings."

Joyous crowds greeted the nearly legendary leader of a failed 1988 pro-democracy uprising after he was released from prison in Thayet, 345 miles (545 kilometers) north of Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city and former capital.

At frequent stops during his journey back to his home in Yangon on Friday and Saturday, Min Ko Naing rallied his supporters, saying he would not give up the fight for democracy and freedom he launched 24 years ago.

A year ago, such scenes would have been unlikely. But Myanmar is a different place now, with freedom starting to take root since the installation of a military-backed but elected government that has embarked on a series of reforms. An independent but censored press is flourishing, and front pages of newspapers feature once-taboo news of the country's democracy movement and its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

Calendars, T-shirts and other paraphernalia of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party are sold openly on the streets of Yangon.

But the adoring reception Min Ko Naing received as he traveled to Yangon was the kind one might encounter on a campaign trail of a sure winner, with crowds of up to 1,000 people turning out along the route and tying up traffic.

After a ferry ride on the Irrawaddy River, he set out from Pyay, also known as Prome, 180 miles (280 kilometers) north of Yangon, in a brown, 12-seat van with family and relatives. Serving as an escort was a pickup truck carrying youths from Suu Kyi's party, flying the party flag of a fighting peacock gazing at a white star. Nearly 50 horn-honking motorcycles ran on ahead.

AP

Min Ko Naing, center, a prominent student leader from the failed 1988 pro-democracy uprising, are welcomed by his colleagues and supporters as he arrives at his home in Yangon, Myanmar, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, after he was released from a prison.

Along the route, many shouted "Good health" and "Long live Min Ko Naing." They came out of their houses to give bouquets of flowers to the student leader, with loud cheers and applause erupting whenever Min Ko Naing came out of his van to greet the crowds.

Addressing a group of about 200 people near Shwe Myet Hman pagoda in Shwe Taung town, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) north of Yangon, Min Ko Naing shouted through a loudspeaker that the students who fought for democracy and freedom in 1988 will continue their struggle, and asked for their support.

"I was given 65 years' imprisonment. If I have to serve all the 65 years, I will have to continue to serve them in my next life," he said to the cheering crowd. "I'm now free because of the support of the people."

Myint Kyi came on his bicycle to see Min Ko Naing paying respects at a temple in Pyay.

"I have heard a lot of good things about Min Ko Naing and I want to see him in person. I am very proud of him and I can call it my day after I've seen him," said the 67-year old retired lawyer.

It is unlikely the generals who still are the ultimate arbiters of power in Myanmar see things the same way. Elections and reforms notwithstanding, they don't react well to their rivals' shows of popularity.

When Suu Kyi drew vast, enthusiastic crowds during a political tour of central Myanmar in 2003, pro-government thugs ambushed her entourage, killing several of her supporters, and she spent the next seven years under house arrest.

Min Ko Naing rose to prominence when, as a university student majoring in zoology, he was president of the clandestine Universities Student Union of Burma (Myanmar), as students spearheaded the popular rebellion against the 26-year autocratic rule of strongman Gen. Ne Win.

His bold speeches fired up the public—but also assured that he would be targeted by the military when it gained the upper hand. Arrested in March 1989, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison for having delivered anti-government speeches and agitating unrest. His sentence was later commuted to 10 years under a general amnesty, but he was kept behind bars anyway until 2004.

On his release, he and his comrades, collectively known as the "88 Generation Student Group," plunged right back into political organizing, and in short order were sent back to prison in 2007 after he led a rare protest against massive fuel price hikes and economic hardship. The small protests helped spark the bigger—but failed—"Saffon Revolution" demonstrations later that year. He was given a 65-year prison sentence.

Groups: Clashes after Tibetan sets self on fire

BEIJING (AP)—Security forces clashed with angry Tibetans in southwestern China, shooting one person, after a man set himself on fire in the latest protest against Chinese rule, activist groups said.

Local residents began to protest Saturday after seeing police severely beat the man who set himself on fire as they put out the flames, the London-based International Campaign for Tibet said.

"Tibetans at the scene became very distressed and angry and gathered together in what seems to be an impromptu demonstration," Kate Saunders of the group wrote in an email.

Little was known about the person who set himself on fire, although the group cited its sources as saying he was a man and that he was not a monk.

It and the London-based group Free Tibet said a woman was shot during the unrest.

At least 16 Buddhist monks, nuns and other Tibetans are now believed to have set themselves on fire in the past year—including four in the past week—mostly in traditionally Tibetan areas of Sichuan province. Most have chanted for Tibetan freedom and the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled to India amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

Woeser, a Beijing-based Tibetan poet and activist, posted accounts of the unrest on Twitter that were similar to those reported by the groups.

"A young Tibetan person self-immolated ... the local area has erupted in public protests and marches, and they have been met with military police fire and suppression. There are Tibetan casualties," she wrote. Like some Tibetans, Woeser uses just one name.

The claims could not be independently confirmed. Calls to Aba county's police bureau rang unanswered. A man who answered the phone Sunday at the Aba prefecture government said they hadn't received any reports about a self-immolation or clashes and then hung up. People answering the phones at the lower Aba county and township governments also said they had no information.

Heavy security has turned Aba and the surrounding area into a virtual restricted zone since an anti-government uprising across Tibetan communities in 2008, and foreign reporters have had little or no access.

China chooses Buddhist leaders in Tibet and wants to pick a pro-Beijing successor to the Dalai Lama, whom Beijing considers to be a separatist. China says Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Tibetans say the Himalayan region was virtually independent for most of that time.

Chinese authorities routinely deny Tibetan claims of repression, although they have confirmed some self-immolations and accused supporters of the Dalai Lama of encouraging such acts. The Dalai Lama and representatives of the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in India say they oppose all violence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorean ship sinks after explosion, 3 crewmen die

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Officials say a South Korean cargo ship has sunk after being rocked by an explosion off the country's west coast, leaving three people dead and eight others missing. Coast guard officer Ko Jae-young says 11 South Korean and five Myanmar crewmen were aboard the 419-ton ship when the explosion occurred for an unknown reason Sunday. Ko says five people were rescued and searchers are trying to locate those missing. He says the ship usually carried chemicals but was empty when it sank. The incident occurred relatively far from the tense sea border with North Korea and the coast guard doesn't suspect the North was involved.

5.7-magnitude quake hits Philippine island region

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A moderate earthquake roused people from sleep but caused no injuries or damage in the northern Philippines early Sunday, officials said. The U.S. Geological Survey reported that the magnitude-5.7 earthquake hit the Babuyan Islands region off the country's mountainous north. Philippine officials placed its magnitude at 5.5. The quake's center, at a depth of 13.9 miles (22.4 kilometers), was about 317 miles (511 kilometers) north of Manila, USGS said. Benito Ramos, who heads the government's Office of Civil Defense, said the quake woke some people up but did not cause any injuries or damage in at least three provinces where it was felt. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any warnings or advisories.

Nepal luring tourists to Buddha's birthplace

LUMBINI, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's president announced a campaign Saturday to lure hundreds of thousands of tourists and pilgrims this year to visit the area of the country where Buddha was born. President Rambaran Yadav said Nepal is eager to welcome both devotees of Buddha and peace believers to Lumbini, in southwestern Nepal, where Buddha is believed to have been born 2,555 years ago. "Let us spread peace not just in the country and among our people, but also in the world," Yadav said. Buddha was born in Lumbini as Prince Sidhartha. Followers believe he left his family and kingdom and meditated in the jungles of Nepal and India before achieving enlightenment.

China offers $119 million in aid to Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—China on Saturday agreed to provide Nepal with $119 million in aid during a surprise visit to the tiny Himalayan nation by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Tirtha Wagle, the Nepalese foreign ministry spokesman, said the countries signed agreements under which Beijing will provide economic and technical assistance and strengthen Nepal's police. Nepal is home to thousands of Tibetan exiles, and the government has worked to suppress anti-China sentiment there. Wen had planned to visit Nepal last month, but that trip was canceled for undisclosed reasons. This visit came ahead of a Middle East trip by the premier, and was kept secret until a few hours before he arrived.

Taiwan's China-friendly president wins re-election

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president won re-election Saturday, paving the way for a continuation of the China-friendly policies that have delighted Beijing and Washington, and caused consternation among some in Taiwan worried about the durability of their de facto independence. With about 99 percent of the vote counted, the official Central Election Commission said President Ma Ying-jeou had garnered 51.6 percent of the total against 45.6 percent for Tsai Ing-wen of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party. A third candidate, James Soong, once a heavyweight with Ma's Nationalist Party, had 2.8 percent. Ma's Nationalist Party also retained control of the 113-seat legislature, though with a reduced majority.

World

Night of chaos, fear after cruise ship ran aground

PORTO SANTO STEFANO, Italy (AP)—The first course had just been served in the Costa Concordia's dining room when the wine glasses, forks and plates of cuttlefish and mushrooms smashed to the ground. At the magic show in the theater, the trash cans tipped over and the theater curtains turned on their side. Then the hallways turned upside down, and passengers crawled on bruised knees through the dark. Others jumped alone into the cold Mediterranean Sea.

The terrifying, chaotic escape from the luxury liner was straight out of a scene from "Titanic" for many of the 4,000-plus passengers and crew on the cruise ship, which ran aground off the Italian coast late Friday and flipped on its side with a 160-foot (50-meter) gash in its hull. At least three bodies were recovered. But late Saturday, nearly 24 hours after the capsizing, rescuers had reason to celebrate: a South Korean couple on their honeymoon responded in the door-to-door search of cabins and were brought to safety in good condition, officials said.

Close to 40 others remained unaccounted for.

The Friday the 13th grounding of the Concordia was one of the most dramatic cruise ship accidents in recent memory. It immediately raised a host of questions: Why did it hit a reef so close to the Tuscan island of Giglio? Did a power failure cause the crew to lose control? Did the captain— under investigation on manslaughter allegations—steer it in the wrong direction on purpose? And why did crew members tell passengers they weren't in danger until the boat was listing perilously to the side?

The delay made lifeboat rescue eventually impossible for some of the passengers, some of whom jumped into the sea while others waited to be plucked to safety by helicopters.

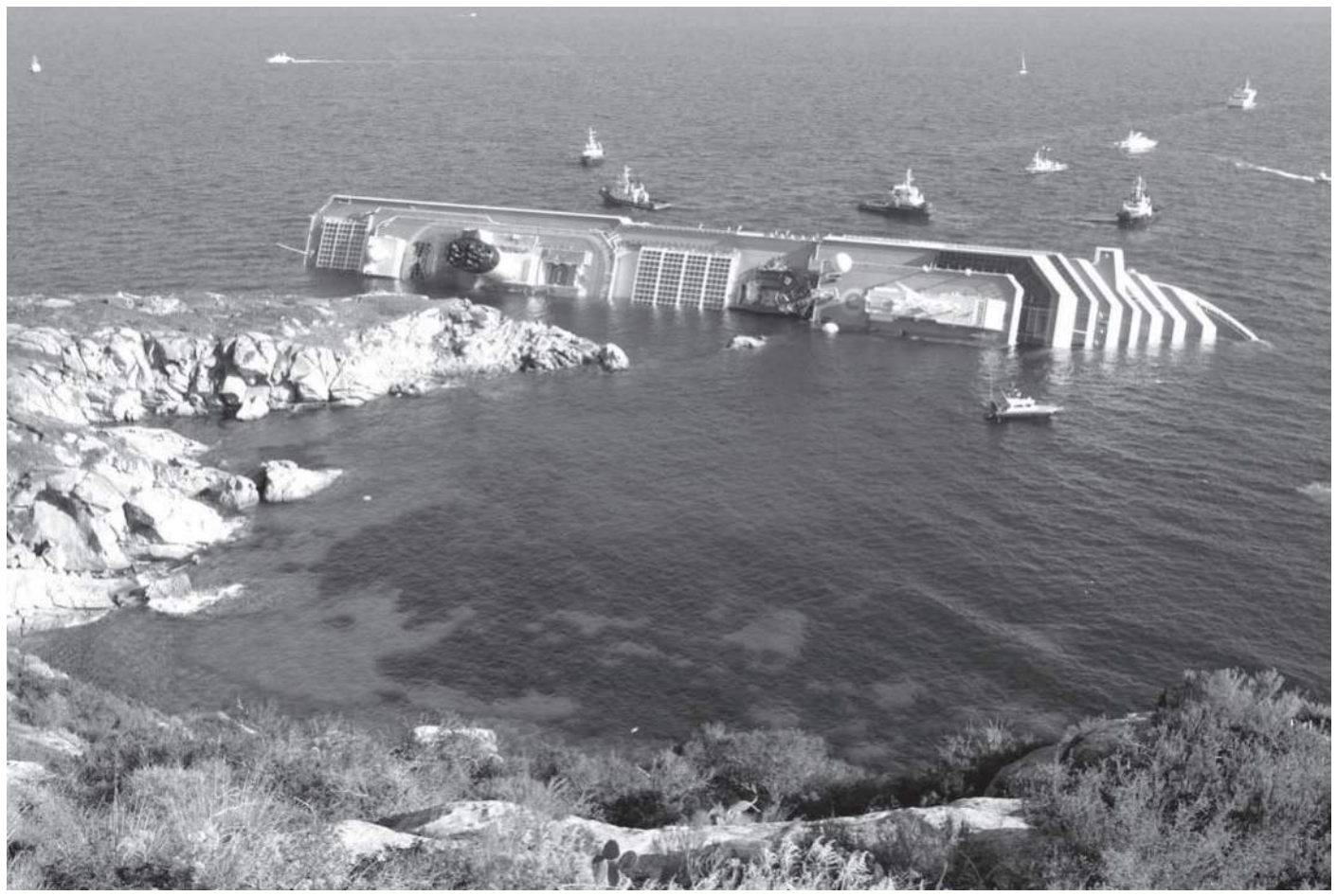
"We had to scream at the controllers to release the boats from the side," said Mike van Dijk, from Pretoria, South Africa. "It was a scramble, an absolute scramble."

Van Dijk said the boat he was on— on the upended port side— got stuck along the ship's wall as it came down.

"It was a hell of a sound, the crunching," he said.

Costa Crociera SpA, which is owned by the U.S.-based cruise giant Carnival Corp., defended the actions of its crew and said it was cooperating with the investigation. Carnival Corp. issued a statement expressing sympathy that didn't address the allegations of delayed evacuation.

The captain, Francesco Schettino, was detained for questioning by prosecutors, investigating him for suspected manslaughter, abandoning ship before all others, and causing a shipwreck, state TV and Sky TV said. Prosecutor Francesco Verusio was quoted by the ANSA news agency as saying Schettino deliberately chose a sea route that was too close to shore.



AP

Italian firefighters' scuba divers approach the luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia, which ran aground off the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012.

Schettino's lawyer, Bruno Leporatti told the agency: "I'd like to say that several hundred people owed their life to the expertise that the commander of the Costa Concordia showed during the emergency."

France said two of the victims were Frenchmen; a Peruvian diplomat identified the third victim as Tomas Alberto Costilla Mendoza, 49, a crewman from Peru. Some 30 people were injured, at least two seriously.

Late Saturday, firefighters who had been searching the Costa Concordia for dozens who remained missing heard distinct shouts, "one in a male voice, other in a female voice" coming from the cruiser liner, Coast guard officer Marcello Fertitta said.

They turned out to be a honeymooning South Korean couple, who were brought out in good condition, Prato fire Cmdr. Vincenzo Bennardo told The Associated Press from the scene.

A risky search by divers of the sunken, water-filled half of the ship for the missing was suspended at darkness Saturday night.

The trapped survivors were found more than 24 hours after the ship ran aground and lurched violently.

Passengers described a scene of frantic confusion. Silverware, plates and glasses crashed down from the dining room's upper floor balcony, children wailed and darkened hallways upended themselves. Panicked passengers slipped on broken glass as the lights went out while crew members insisted nothing serious was wrong.

"Have you seen 'Titanic'? That's exactly what it was," said Valerie Ananias, 31, a schoolteacher from Los Angeles who was traveling with her sister and parents. They all bore dark red bruises on their knees from the desperate crawl they endured along nearly vertical hallways and stairwells, trying to reach rescue boats.

"We were crawling up a hallway, in the dark, with only the light from the life vest strobe flashing," her mother, Georgia Ananias, 61 said. "We could hear plates and dishes crashing, people slamming against walls."

She choked up as she remembered the moment when an Argentine couple handed her their 3-year-old daughter, unable to keep their balance as the ship listed to the side.

"He said,'Take my baby,'" Georgia Ananias said, covering her mouth with her hand. "I grabbed the baby. But then I was being pushed down. I didn't want the baby to fall down the stairs. I gave the baby back. I couldn't hold her."

Whispered her daughter Valerie: "I wonder where they are."

The Ananias family was among the last passengers off the ship, left standing on the upended port side. They were forced to exit from a still-attached lifeboat that became impossible to use once the ship began to tip over; so they climbed a ladder dropped too them off a deck and shimmied down a rope to a waiting rescue vessel.

"We thought we were dying four times," Valerie said, recounting the most terrifying moments in their escape.

A top Costa executive, Gianni Onorato, said Saturday the Concordia's captain had the liner on its regular, weekly route when it struck a reef. Italian coast guard officials said the circumstances were still unclear, but that the ship hit an unknown obstacle.

Despite some early reports that the captain was dining with passengers when his ship crashed into the reef, he was on the bridge, Onorato said.

"The ship was doing what it does 52 times a year, going along the route between Civitavecchia and Savona," a shaken-looking Onorato told reporters on Giglio, a popular vacation isle off Italy's central west coast.

He said the captain was an 11-year Costa veteran and that the cruise line was cooperating with Italian investigators to find out what went wrong.

Malcolm Latarche, editor of maritime magazine IHS Fairplay Solutions, said a loss of power coupled with a failure of backup systems could have caused the crew to lose control.

"I would say power failure caused by harmonic interference and then it can't propel straight or navigate and it hit rocks," Latarche said.

Many passengers complained the crew didn't give them good directions on how to evacuate and once the emergency became clear, delayed lowering the lifeboats until the ship was listing too heavily for many to be released.

Several other passengers said crew members told passengers for 45 minutes that there was a simple "technical problem" that had caused the lights to go off.

Seasoned cruisers knew better and went to get their life jackets from their cabins and report to their "muster stations," the emergency stations each passenger is assigned to, they said.

Passengers said they had never participated in an evacuation drill, although one had been scheduled for Saturday. The cruise began on Jan. 7.

Miriam Vitale, a hostess on the cruise liner who disembarked earlier this week in Palermo, told SkyTG24 the ship conducts a drill every 15 days. She said that since passengers on the Concordia embark or disembark every day, some passengers could miss it depending on which day they begin the trip.

Surviving passengers huddled under woolen or aluminum blankets in a middle school on the Italian mainland of Porto Santo Stefano, where passengers were ferried early Saturday from Giglio. Some wore their life preservers, their shoeless feet were covered with aluminum foil.

Christine Hammer, from Bonn, Germany, shivered near the harbor as she waited for a bus to take her somewhere—she didn't know where. She wore her gray cashmere sweater and a silk scarf with a large pair of hiking boats loaned to her by an islander after she lost her shoes in the scramble. Her passport, credit cards and phone were left in her cabin.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bomb kills at least 53 pilgrims in south Iraq

ZUBAIR, Iraq (AP)—A bomb tore through a procession of Shiite pilgrims heading toward a largely Sunni town in southern Iraq on Saturday, killing at least 53 people in the latest sign of a power struggle between rival Muslim sects that has escalated since the American military withdrawal. Fears of more bloodshed have risen in recent weeks, with the U.S. no longer enjoying the leverage it once had to encourage the two sides to work together to rein in extremists. Most of the latest attacks appear to be aimed at Iraq's majority Shiites, suggesting Sunni insurgents seeking to undermine the Shiite-dominated government are to blame. Saturday's blast happened on the last of the 40 days of Arbaeen, when hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims travel to the Iraqi city of Karbala and other holy sites.

Egypt's ElBaradei ends presidential bid in protest

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's reform leader Mohamed ElBaradei has withdrawn from the presidential race, saying a fair election is impossible under the military's grip nearly a year after Hosni Mubarak's ouster. In a statement Saturday, ElBaradei made clear that he saw no hope that the presidential election due by the end of June would bring a real end to the military's rule, and he added a sharp criticism that the military has behaved as if Mubarak's regime never fell. "I had said from the start that my conscience will not allow me to run for president or any official position unless there is a real democratic framework, that upholds the essence of democracy and not only its form," he said.

Focus

Casino plans sprout in US as states seek revenue

AP

This Oct. 28, 2011 file photo shows the front entrance of the Resorts World Casino on the day of its official opening as New York City's first casino at the Aqueduct Racetrack, in Jamaica in the Queens borough of New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—A Malaysian company's plan to build a $4 billion convention center and big-time casino on the outskirts of New York City could be the biggest shot fired yet in a tourism arms race that has seen a growing number of Eastern states embrace gambling as a way to lure visitors and drum up revenue.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last week that he would work with the Genting Group, one of the world's largest and most successful gambling companies, to transform the storied, but sleepy, Aqueduct horse track into a megaplex that would eventually include the nation's largest convention center, 3,000 hotel rooms, and a major expansion of a casino that began operating at the site in October.

The proposal came less than two months after once-puritanical Massachusetts passed a law allowing up to three resort casinos, plus a slot machine parlor, at locations around the state.

Ohio is poised to see its first commercial casinos open this year, after voters approved up to four gambling halls in 2009. Maryland's first casino opened last year, with more on the way. Pennsylvania's first casinos opened in 2006, and already the state is threatening to surpass Atlantic City as the nation's second-largest gambling market.

And in Florida, lawmakers are hotly debating a whopper of a bill that would allow up to three multibillion-dollar casinos, plus additional slot machines at dog and horse tracks. Genting appears confident the law will pass. It has already spent around $450 million to acquire waterfront property in Miami, where it wants to build a $3.8 billion complex that would include a casino, dozens of restaurants and a shopping mall.

States have embraced casinos, after years of trepidation about their societal costs, for two simple reasons: a promise of a rich new revenue source, plus the possibility of stimulating tourism.

"They are faced with tough decisions. They are in recession ... And we pay taxes far over and above normal taxes," said Frank Fahrenkopf, president of the American Gaming Association.

Last week alone, Genting's new gambling parlor at Aqueduct, now limited to 4,500 video slot machines and another 500 electronic table games, made nearly $13 million— putting the "racino" on pace to make $676 million per year, with 44 percent of that take going to a state education fund.

And that total is nothing compared to the $1.4 to $2 billion per year Genting predicts it would bring in at the huge complex it is planning in Miami.

Some experts, however, have questioned whether revenue bonanzas that large are realistic, and say states should be cautious about giving up too much to lure these projects. Competition for a limited pool of gambling and tourism dollars is already fierce, and recent years haven't been kind to casinos.

Nevada's larger casinos lost $4 billion in 2011, according to a report released this month by the state's Gaming Control Board, as the state continued to feel the effects of the global economic slump.

As gambling options have increased in the East, revenue has slid substantially at the pair of Indian tribe-owned casinos in Connecticut and declined by a dramatic 30 percent in Atlantic City, which has lost customers in droves to the new casinos in nearby Philadelphia, according to David Schwartz, director of the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

That trend could deepen with the introduction of big-time gambling in New York and Massachusetts, and in the end result in a situation where few people need to travel to gamble.

And that could mean that the tourism promise of the casinos largely goes unfulfilled, as the gambling tables and slot machines are played predominantly by locals taking revenue from other parts of the economy, rather than out-of-state visitors bringing in new dollars, said the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a Washington D.C. research group that advocates for progressive tax codes.

"Gambling may simply shift money from one tax to another, limiting the net gain to the state," it said. "Consumers spend more money on gambling activities, they will spend less money on other items, such as recreation and even basic needs."

Gambling resorts, most notably Las Vegas, have responded to tougher competition by trying to make themselves into destinations for visitors of all stripes, offering concerts, theater, museums, zoos, restaurants and other attractions.

Genting appears to be planning a variation on that model for New York.

The company and the project's champion, Cuomo, have heralded it first and foremost for the planned convention center, which they have boasted will be the nation's largest.

Genting has insisted it will go ahead with construction of the center even if the state doesn't pass the constitutional amendment needed to fully legalize the type of casino it wishes to operate at the site, with table games run by human dealers rather than the electronic machines.

"I can't be clearer about this: This project, this convention center, is in no way predicated on the legalization of table gambling in New York," said Stefan Friedman, a publicist for the company. "We think there is a real opportunity here."

The company has, however, asked for permission to expand its current casino operation as part of the deal. It also wants to alter its revenue-sharing deal so it can take home a bigger slice of the profits.

There are some skeptics. The convention center the company wishes to build will be a 45-minute taxi ride from Manhattan, or an hour or longer by train. It will be located in a residential area where there are now no restaurants, shops or sites of interest, aside from nearby John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Convention centers across the country have been losing money for many years, and suffering from attendance declines even while going ahead with expansion projects.

"I would consider that a very risky business proposition," said Heywood Sanders, a professor of public administration at the University of Texas who is a leading critic of using taxpayer money to build convention centers.

He noted that the nation's biggest convention center, Chicago's McCormick Place, has seen attendance drop steadily in recent years, despite several expansions and costly upgrades. The Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau reported that 2 million people attended events at the center in 2010, compared to 3 million in 2001. Convention delegates dropped to 890,000 from 1.3 million over that same decade.

Cuomo himself noted in a letter to New York legislators this week that many convention centers lose money, and he expressed doubt over the wisdom of using public money to pay for such facilities, saying it was "debatable" that they generate enough new tourism to validate the investment.

But he noted that, in this case, the building would be privately funded and operated.

"The state is not building anything. We are not spending public money on a convention center. Genting, a private entity, will take the risk of economic success," he said.

That argument rang true with Kathryn Wylde, president of the Partnership for New York City, an influential group of business leaders.

"There is only upside for the city and state," she said. "We have very little to lose by encouraging them."

As in Florida, Genting appears to be betting big that the state will eventually eliminate legal hurdles to expanded gambling. It paid $380 million up-front for the right to operate at Aqueduct for 30 years, and said it is prepared to spend billions of dollars constructing convention and exhibition space, as well as a theater and 1,000 hotel rooms, even without the gambling expansion it desires.

Clearly, Friedman said, the company doesn't believe the East Coast is saturated with either casinos or convention centers.

That said, it isn't necessarily keen for more competition. As part of its negotiations with the state, he said, the company is discussing a possible grant of exclusivity that could prevent another casino from opening "right in our backyard."

Health & Fitness

Homicide drops off US list of top causes of death

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—For the first time in almost half a century, homicide has fallen off the list of the nation's top 15 causes of death, bumped by a lung illness that often develops in elderly people who have choked on their food.

The 2010 list, released by the government Wednesday, reflects at least two major trends: Murders are down, and deaths from certain diseases are on the rise as the population ages, health authorities said.

Homicide was overtaken at No. 15 by pneumonitis, seen mainly in people 75 and older. It happens when food or vomit goes down the windpipe and causes deadly damage to the lungs.

This is the first time since 1965 that homicide failed to make the list, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC's latest annual report on deaths contained several nuggets of good news:

■ The infant mortality rate dropped to an all-time low of 6.14 deaths per 1,000 births in 2010. It was 6.39 the year before.

■ U.S. life expectancy for a child born in 2010 was about 78 years and 8 months, up about a little more than one month from life expectancy for 2009.

■ Heart disease and cancer remain the top killers, accounting for nearly half the nation's more than 2.4 million deaths in 2010. But the death rates from them continued to decline.

■ Death rates for five other leading causes of death also dropped in 2010, including stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, accidents, flu/pneumonia and blood infections.

But death rates increased for Alzheimer's disease, which is the nation's sixth-leading killer, kidney disease (No. 8), chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (No. 12), Parkinson's disease (No. 14) and pneumonitis.

ON THE NET
CDC report: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/

The report is drawn from a review of at least 98 percent of the death certificates filed in the U.S. in 2010.

The government has been keeping a list of the top causes of death since 1949. Homicide has historically ranked fairly low. It was as high as 10th in 1989 and in 1991 through 1993, when the nation saw a surge in youth homicides related to the crack epidemic.

In the past decade, homicide's highest ranking was 13th. That was in 2001 and was due in part to the 9/11 attacks.

Murders have been declining nationally since 2006, according to FBI statistics. Falling homicide rates have been celebrated in several major cities, including New York City, Detroit and Washington.

Criminologists have debated the reasons but believe several factors may be at work. Among them: Abusive relationships don't end in murder as often as they once did, thanks to increased incarcerations and better, earlier support for victims.

"We've taken the home out of homicide," said James Alan Fox, a Northeastern University criminologist who studies murder data.

Some also credit better police work and public health programs aimed at reducing violence.

Demographics are an important factor, too, as the largest segment of the population is now 50 and older. Younger people—who are most likely to commit or fall victim to murder—are making up a smaller share of the population.

That ties in to the changes in the CDC's list of causes of death.

"The risk of homicide declines with age, and the risk of death by disease increases," Fox said.

However, some causes of death associated with old age are giving way to others, noted Robert Anderson, the CDC official who oversaw the report. Doctors have been getting better at preventing and treating heart disease and cancer, which allows something else to become the cause of death.

"In previous years, someone with both heart disease and Parkinson's would have been more likely to have died from heart disease. Now with better treatment, they die from Parkinson's instead," Anderson said in an email.

Pneumonitis is another example. Despite its name, pneumonitis is not related to pneumonia. It occurs in people who have lost the ability to swallow or protect their airway.

Low risk of heart incidents found for marathoners

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—It's dramatic news when a marathon runner collapses with no pulse. Now a big study finds such calamities are rare and usually due to a pre-existing heart problem.

The study also found such incidents are increasing as more runners try to go the distance.

"You hear about this more and more," said Dr. Aaron Baggish, senior author of the study

Baggish, who runs a program for athletes with heart issues at Massachusetts General Hospital, and co-authors present their analysis in Thursday's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study covers 10.9 million runners who participated in marathons or half-marathons in the United States from 2000 to 2010.

By scouring media reports and checking with medical staff of races, the researchers identified 59 cases of cardiac arrest, where a runner became unconscious with no pulse during the race or within an hour of finishing. Cardiac arrest is when the heart stops

AP
From left: Kara Goucher, Shalane Flanagan, Amy Hastings and Desiree Davila compete in the U.S. Olympic women's marathon trials Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, in Houston.

because of a heart attack, a rhythm problem or other disorder.

Forty-two of the runners died.

The overall figures translate to 1 cardiac arrest per 184,000 participants and 1 death per 259,000 participants, the researchers said. Those numbers are low compared to other athletic activities, as shown by prior studies of deaths in college athletes, triathlon participants and previously healthy middle-aged joggers, researchers said.

Most of the cardiac arrests involved marathons rather than half-marathons, and 51 of the 59 cases happened in men.

More cases showed up during 2005-2010 than in the preceding five-year span, but that's just because more people are participating in the races, Baggish said. More worrisome was the finding that among male marathoners, the rate of cardiac arrest per 100,000 runners was higher during the latter half of the decade than in the first half.

Personal Trainer
Some tips on running form
Running gives you lots of time to feel how you are using your muscles and think about how you are moving your frame.
Make all your motion forward
Redirect all muscular effort that is not pointed forward, such as these movements
Bouncing up and down
Swinging your arms from side to side
Relax as you run
Loosen your shoulders, face and hands; carry your hands low enough to touch the waist of your pants
A trick for keeping your hands relaxed
Imagine that you are running with a potato chip in each hand and try not to break it
Shift your weight on hills
Going uphill, raise your arms a little, which will raise your center of gravity
Going downhill, lower your arms and center of gravity
Touch the ground lightly
A good way to monitor how heavily you are stepping is to listen to the sound your feet make on the pavement
THUMP
WUMP
THUMP
WUMP
THUMP
Source: Personal Best Training and Fitness Programs
Graphic: Paul Trap
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Marijuana doesn't harm lung function, study found

CHICAGO (AP)—Smoking a joint once a week or a bit more apparently doesn't harm the lungs, suggests a 20-year study that bolsters evidence that marijuana doesn't do the kind of damage tobacco does.

The results, from one of the largest and longest studies on the health effects of marijuana, are hazier for heavy users—those who smoke two or more joints daily for several years. The data suggest that using marijuana that often might cause a decline in lung function, but there weren't enough heavy users among the 5,000 young adults in the study to draw firm conclusions.

Still, the authors recommended "caution and moderation when marijuana use is considered."

Marijuana is an illegal drug under federal law although some states allow its use for medical purposes.

The study by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham was released Tuesday by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The findings echo results in some smaller studies that showed while marijuana contains some of the same toxic chemicals as tobacco, it does not carry the same risks for lung disease.

It's not clear why that is so, but it's possible that the main active ingredient in marijuana, a chemical known as THC, makes the difference. THC causes the "high" that users feel. It also helps fight inflammation and may counteract the effects of more irritating chemicals in the drug, said Dr. Donald Tashkin, a marijuana researcher and an emeritus professor of medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. Tashkin was not involved in the new study.

Study co-author Dr. Stefan Kertesz said there are other aspects of marijuana that may help explain the results.

Unlike cigarette smokers, marijuana users tend to breathe in deeply when they inhale a joint, which some researchers think might strengthen lung tissue. But the common lung function tests used in the study require the same kind of deep breathing that marijuana smokers are used to, so their good test results might partly reflect lots of practice, said Kertesz, a drug abuse researcher and preventive medicine specialist at the Alabama university.

The study authors analyzed data from participants in a 20-year federally funded health study in young adults that began in 1985. Their analysis was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Life & Style

Miss Wisconsin wins Miss America pageant in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 23-year-old beauty queen from Kenosha, Wis., won the Miss America pageant Saturday in Las Vegas after singing opera and strutting in a white bikini and black beaded evening gown.

Laura Kaeppeler also had to answer a question about whether beauty queens should declare their politics.

"Miss America represents everyone, so I think the message to political candidates is that they represent everyone as well," she said. "And so in these economic times, we need to be looking forward to what America needs, and I think Miss America needs to represent all."

Miss Oklahoma Betty Thompson came in second, while Miss New York Kaitlyn Monte placed third.

Kaeppeler wins a $50,000 scholarship and gets the title for one year. Her platform during the competition was supporting and mentoring children of incarcerated parents—a topic close to her heart.

Kaeppeler's father, Jeff Kaeppeler, told The Associated Press he served 18 months in federal prison for mail fraud.

He said when his daughter approached the family about making the personal topic her chosen platform, they supported it even though they knew it would be discussed publicly.

"We've seen this come full circle," he said.

Jeff Kaeppeler said his daughter's win on Saturday night was the best day of his life. He attended the event in a black tuxedo with a baby blue vest and bow tie.

"It taught us that God can turn everything into good if you let him," he said.

Laura Kaeppeler's hometown of roughly 97,000 people, Kenosha, is about 40 miles south of Milwaukee.

She majored in music and vocal performance at a private Lutheran liberal arts college in Kenosha, and told pageant officials she planned to obtain a master's degree in speech and language pathology and become a speech therapist.

Kaeppeler was crowned the new Miss America by a panel of seven judges during a live telecast on ABC. The event was the culmination of a week of preliminary competitions and months of preparations for the titleholders from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

As the new Miss America, Kaeppeler will spend the next year touring the country to speak to different groups and raising money for the Children's Miracle Network, the Miss America Organization's official charity.

AP

Miss Wisconsin Laura Kaeppeler reacts after being crowned Miss America Saturday Jan. 14, 2012 ,at The Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

Teresa Scanlan of Nebraska won Miss America last year at age 17 to become the pageant's youngest winner ever. She said contestants' nerves likely were at their highest point just before the pageant.

"You can always breathe a sigh of relief" once the live pageant begins, Scanlan said.

Pageant officials earlier announced the winners of preliminary competitions, including Kaeppeler, Thompson and Miss Hawaii Lauren Cheape for talent; and Monte, Miss Texas Kendall Morris and Miss Utah Danica Olsen for swimsuit.

Kaeppeler took home a $2,000 scholarship for her opera performance of "Il Bacio" in the talent competition.

Officials also said Miss Idaho Genevieve Nutting won the $2,000 Fourpoints Award, while Miss Kentucky Ann-Blair Thornton won the $6,000 Quality of Life scholarship.

The Miss America Organization touts itself as the world's largest giver of scholarships to women, with about $350,000 to be given this year at the national level.

Scanlan said she planned to use her scholarship to help pay for law school en route to a life in politics.

Paterno speaks for first time since firing

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Joe Paterno speaks mostly in a whisper these days. His hand sometimes trembles. His thick black hair is gone; in its place is a wig.

Sitting at his kitchen table in a wheelchair, a blanket rests in his lap. A broken pelvis has taken its toll, so have the constant radiation treatments for lung cancer.

In his first interview since being fired by Penn State two months ago, the winningest coach in Division I football told The Washington Post he's "shocked and saddened" by the scandal that enveloped the place where he spent more than six decades.

Yet the 85-year-old Paterno refused to bash the school or say a bad word about the man at the center of the turmoil.

Instead, Paterno said he "didn't know which way to go" after an assistant coach came to him in 2002 saying he had seen retired defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky sexually abusing a boy.

"I think we got to wait and see what happens," Paterno said in an interview posted Saturday on the newspaper's website. "The courts are taking care of it, the legal system is taking care of it."

Post reporter Sally Jenkins paints a portrait of a frail Paterno, hardly the robust character seen walking the sidelines for so many years.

"Speak up," Paterno's wife, Sue, sometimes says.

Paterno told the Post that assistant Mike McQueary "didn't want to get specific" about details in his allegation involving Sandusky, who McQueary said was showering with a boy in the Penn State football facility.

Paterno said he was hesitant to make follow-up calls because he didn't want to be seen as trying to exert influence either for or against Sandusky.

"I didn't know which way to go ... And rather than get in there and make a mistake," he told the Post before trailing off.

AP

In this photo taken Jan. 12, 2012, former Penn State football coach Joe Paterno gestures as while interviewed at his home in State College, Pa.

A day after he heard McQueary's allegation, Paterno reported it to his superiors. Paterno said he previously had "no inkling" Sandusky might be a child molester.

Sandusky was criminally charged on Nov. 5 and faces dozens of counts. Paterno was ousted four days later after 46 years as head coach.

"Right now I'm trying to figure out what I'm gonna do," Paterno said. "`Cause I don't want to sit around on my backside all day."

Paterno was diagnosed with lung cancer days after his dismissal. He was readmitted to the hospital Friday for observation for what his family called a minor complication from treatments. He has been undergoing chemotherapy and radiation.

His condition improved Saturday morning, and he remained in the hospital, the family said.

Paterno said he was initially reluctant to speak because "I wanted everybody to settle down," but the Post reported he was so eager to defend his record that he insisted on continuing the interview from his bedside Friday morning, though ill.

Paterno, who testified before a grand jury investigating Sandusky, is not a target of the criminal probe.

But his firing came as criticism mounted against Paterno and other Penn State leaders that the 2002 allegation should have been reported to authorities outside of Penn State.

"You would think I ran the show here," Paterno said.

The 67-year-old Sandusky is charged with sexually abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period. He maintains his innocence and remains out on $250,000 bail while awaiting trial.

If Sandusky is guilty, "I'm sick about it," Paterno said.

Paterno said he wished he knew how the charges against Sandusky didn't come to light until years after the alleged assaults occurred. "I don't know the answer to that," he said. "It's hard."

Asked to respond to the Paterno interview, Sandusky lawyer Joe Amendola said in a statement to The Associated Press that the former Penn State assistant was "greatly dismayed by the knee-jerk reaction" of the Penn State Board of Trustees in firing Paterno.

"In the meantime, we'll continue to keep Coach Paterno and (Athletic Director) Tim Curley in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy and full recovery from their illnesses and Jerry and I will continue our work in preparation for this trial."

In court testimony last month, McQueary said his account about the 2002 allegation to Paterno wasn't as detailed as what he relayed to Paterno's superiors out of respect for the older Paterno.

According to the Post, Paterno reiterated that McQueary was unclear with him about the nature of what he saw—and added that even if McQueary had been more graphic, he's not sure he would have understood it.

"You know, he didn't want to get specific," Paterno said. "And to be frank with you I don't know that it would have done any good, because I never heard of, of, rape and a man. So I just did what I thought was best. I talked to people that I thought would be, if there was a problem, that would be following up on it."

In recent weeks, Paterno's dismissal has come under question from many former players and alumni wondering about the motivations of trustees.

Others are roiled by a perceived lack of communication by trustees and President Rodney Erickson during a period when the school has promised to be more open and transparent. Many alumni who attended town hall meetings in Pittsburgh, suburban Philadelphia and New York this week questioned why Paterno, after 61 years of service to the school, wasn't afforded due process before his dismissal.

Paterno met his legal requirement to report suspected abuse, according to authorities.

But two days after Sandusky was charged, state police Commissioner Frank Noonan said Paterno and other school leaders had a "moral responsibility" to do more and report allegations to police.

With a media storm descending on the campus, Paterno announced his resignation the morning of Nov. 9. That day, he called the scandal "one of the great sorrows of my life. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more."

The trustees fired him about 12 hours later. Paterno recounted that he was passed a note at the door of his home by an assistant athletic director with the name of trustees vice chairman John Surma and a phone number.

According to the Post, Surma told Paterno, "In the best interests of the university, you are terminated." Paterno hung up and repeated the words to his wife, who redialed the number.

"After 61 years he deserved better," Sue Paterno said. "He deserved better."

Paterno could not recall the last time he had seen or spoken to Sandusky. He declined to offer his opinion on the charges other than saying he would wait for the legal process to unfold.

Paterno reminded the Post he is not a victim.

"You know, I'm not as concerned about me," he said. "What's happened to me has been great. I got five great kids. Seventeen great grandchildren. I've had a wonderful experience here at Penn State. I don't want to walk away from this thing bitter. I want to be helpful."

Muhammad Ali cheered at 70th birthday bash in Ky.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Muhammad Ali soaked in familiar cheers and chants along with a rendition of "Happy Birthday" on Saturday night as friends and admirers celebrated the boxing champ's coming 70th birthday at a party in his Kentucky hometown.

As party-goers mingled in a lobby of the Muhammad Ali Center before the party, Ali walked slowly to a second-floor balcony overlooking them. The crowd immediately began to clap, then broke into chants of "Ali! Ali!" followed by singing as Ali watched for about two minutes.

The three-time world heavyweight champion, who is battling Parkinson's disease, leaned against a rail and raised his right hand to wave to the crowd. Ali walked on his own but was at times assisted by his wife, Lonnie, and his sister-in-law. After the brief appearance, Ali went to his party.

Former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis said his boyhood idol is "still the greatest."

"I feel so proud and honored that we're able to show our feelings and show our support for him," Lewis said.

Lewis said Ali's strength and influence extended far beyond the boxing ring in his humanitarian efforts.

"What he's done outside the ring—just the bravery, the poise, the feeling, the sacrifice," Lewis said "... He's truly a great man."

The guest list numbered 350 for the private party, which doubled as a $1,000-per-person fundraiser for the Ali Center, the six-year-old cultural and education complex designed to be a legacy to his social activism. The six-story center also retraces Ali's career, including his epic bouts against Joe Frazier, George Foreman and Sonny Liston.

Guests paid tribute to Ali beforehand.

"The reason I loved him is because of his confidence," University of Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari said. "He would talk and then back it up. He had great courage and who had more fun than him?"

The guest list also included Ali's trainer Angelo Dundee and three American hikers who were imprisoned in Iran. Ali, perhaps the most prominent U.S. Muslim, lobbied for their release. Rocker John Mellencamp headlined the entertainment.

Ali turns 70 on Tuesday, and the party in his hometown is the first of five planned in the next few months. Not long after Ali's dramatic appearance on the balcony, the crowd began filing into a banquet hall for the party, which was closed to the public and reporters.

The self-proclaimed "Greatest of All Time" remains one of the world's most recognizable figures, even though he's been largely absent from the public eye recently as he fights Parkinson's disease.

Lonnie Ali said Friday that her husband has mixed feelings about the landmark birthday.

"He's glad he's here to turn 70, but he wants to be reassured he doesn't look 70," she said.

Born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. on Jan. 17, 1942, Ali took up boxing at age 12, when his bike was stolen and he wanted to find and whip the culprit. The boy was introduced to Joe Martin, a police officer who coached boxing at a local gym.

Ali's brother, 68-year-old Rahaman Ali, recalled on Saturday night that the champ was cheerful and happy as a youngster.

"As a little boy he (said) he would be the world's greatest fighter and be a great man," he said.

Ali flourished in the ring, becoming a top amateur and Olympic gold medalist. He made his professional debut in Louisville and arranged for a local children's hospital to receive proceeds from the fight.

Lewis said Ali ranks as the greatest of heavyweights, and he said he was inspired by Ali's fights.

"I used to get mad if I didn't see the Ali shuffle," Lewis said. "So I was always watching him, expecting some type of antic."

Ali won the heavyweight title in 1964, defeating the heavily favored Sonny Liston. Soon after, Ali— who was raised in a Baptist family— announced his conversion to Islam and changed his name.

While in his prime, Ali was stripped of his heavyweight crown in 1967 for refusing to be drafted for military service during the Vietnam War. He cited his religious beliefs as the reason for his refusal.

His decision alienated Ali from many across the U.S. and resulted in a draft-evasion conviction. Ali found himself embroiled in a long legal fight that ended in 1971, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor.

Ali lost his first bid to regain the heavyweight crown when Frazier knocked him down and took a decision in the "Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in 1971.

Ali regained the heavyweight title in 1974, defeating Foreman in the "Rumble in the Jungle." A year later, he outlasted Frazier in the epic "Thrilla in Manila" bout.

Last year, a frail Ali rose from his seat and clapped for his deceased rival at Frazier's funeral.

Ali's last title came in 1978 when he defeated Leon Spinks.

Ali retired from boxing in 1981 and devoted himself to social causes. He traveled the world on humanitarian missions, mingling with the masses and rubbing elbows with world leaders. Ali received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2005.

AP

Muhammad Ali., left, welcomes his guests along with his wife Lonnie Ali, center, at a fund raiser for the Muhammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville, Ky., on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012. Ali turns 70 Tuesday.

DiCaprio, Streep celebrate at pre-Globes tea party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Before the Golden Globes Champagne, there is the BAFTA tea.

The Los Angeles branch of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts held its 18th annual Awards Season Tea Party Saturday, where a slew of Golden Globe nominees sipped Earl Grey and nibbled on finger sandwiches and scones with jam and cream.

Michelle Williams, Viola Davis, Meryl Streep and Charlize Theron—all up for best actress Sunday—mingled with fellow filmmakers and nominees at the afternoon affair at the Four Seasons Hotel, also home to a gift suite and beauty lounge leading up to the Golden Globes.

The place was alight with stars. While the BAFTA tea party was going on in the hotel ballroom, Gilles Marini and Anne Heche collected swag at the HBO Luxury Lounge upstairs and Malin Ackerman and her stepmom got dolled up at the InStyle Beauty Lounge on a private outdoor patio.

Theron was already picture perfect when she arrived at the BAFTA party—so perfect, in fact, that supporting actress nominee Octavia Spencer was afraid to get too close.

"I don't want to mess up your face," Spencer said as she embraced Theron on the red carpet.

"Mess me up, honey. Mess me up," the "Young Adult" star said as she gave Spencer a squeeze.

Spencer, a working actress for 15 years before her breakout role in "The Help," said the response to the film and ensuing awards journey has been "surreal."

"Steven Spielberg had a conversation with me and when he walked away from the table, I started crying, because it's (meeting) people who've inspired me," she said. "The fact that I am, for these next couple weeks, getting to rub elbows with them—This coach is going to turn into a pumpkin in the next couple weeks, so I am living it up."

Spencer sat with her co-stars inside as BAFTA/LA chairman Neil Stiles implored guests to raise their glasses and wish "the best of British luck" to the various nominees. Also toasting were "The Artist" stars Berenice Bejo and Jean Dujardin, "Hugo" stars Sir Ben Kingsley, Asa Butterfield and Chloe Grace Moretz, "Ides of March" star Evan Rachel Wood and Emily Watson of "War Horse."

Supporting actor contender Kenneth Branagh (for "My Week With Marilyn") said the BAFTA tea is part of the road to the Golden Globes.

"You enjoy every little bit of the journey that marks the way," he said. "There's a little ritual getting ready for tomorrow night.

"The day is one long preparation, so by the time you get inside that room, you can't help but be swept up with the adrenaline—not only for the involvement with your own movie if you're lucky enough to be nominated, but just everyone else. You see amazing people across a crowded room, and the sense of celebrating the good things the movie business does is what it's all about."

The 69th annual Golden Globe Awards will be presented Sunday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel and broadcast live on NBC.

HBO insists no political agenda behind Palin film

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—In a politically polarized country, the people behind HBO's upcoming movie on Sarah Palin's vice presidential campaign are being careful not to take one side or the other.

"There is no agenda here," Danny Strong, writer of the film "Game Change," said at a news conference Friday. Filmmakers said they sought historical accuracy.

The movie debuts March 10. It is based on John Heilemann and Mark Halperin's book about the 2008 presidential campaign, but focuses specifically on Palin. Director Jay Roach said he wrote a long letter to the former Alaska governor seeking an interview with her to help the film, "but I got a very quick email back from her attorney saying, `I checked, she declined.'"

Roach and Strong were the team behind HBO's Emmy-winning "Recount" about the disputed 2000 presidential election.

"I don't think this movie is going to change people's minds one way or another," Strong said. "People are very polarized. It's not designed to change people's minds."

Actress Julianne Moore looks strikingly like Palin in her depiction. Asked what she thought of Palin after getting so close to the story, Moore said she had "profound respect" for the historical nature of the candidacy.

"There was a tremendous amount of pressure," Moore said. "That was what I was trying to capture, the pressure that she was under."

AP

In this Sept. 5, 2011 photo, former vice presidential candidate and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin addresses a Tea Partly Express Rally in Manchester, N.H.

Actor Ed Harris portrays John McCain. Although the resemblance to his character isn't quite as sharp as Moore's, it's pretty close.

One unusual casting was Woody Harrelson, who plays McCain campaign strategist Steve Schmidt. The film's story is largely seen through Schmidt's eyes. Harrelson, who describes himself politically as "probably more an anarchist," said he met Schmidt and liked him.

"The concept of playing this guy who I think ideologically couldn't be any farther away from me felt like a real challenge," he said.

Lopez, Anthony promoting new project

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

PASADENA, California (AP)—Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony were together again on Saturday—at least to promote their new project.

The stars, who announced last summer they were ending their marriage after seven years, appeared on a stage Saturday to talk briefly about a new music series they are doing together. "Q'Viva! The Chosen" premieres on Univision on Jan. 28.

Anthony reached down to offer his hand and help Lopez climb three stairs to the stage, and later admired the four sparkling rings on her left hand. They sat side by side on director's chairs.

The two stars, along with Jamie King, travel throughout north and south America to search for artists who will come to the United States and participate in a live show of Latin music and entertainment. It airs in 12 weekly episodes in the U.S. and on Spanish-language stations across Latin America. An English-language version is planned later for Fox.

Anthony and Lopez were working this week to judge some of the contestants, Univision said.

"It was like any time that we work together," said Lopez, who wore a tight blue leather mini-dress for the morning news conference. "We have a great time working together."

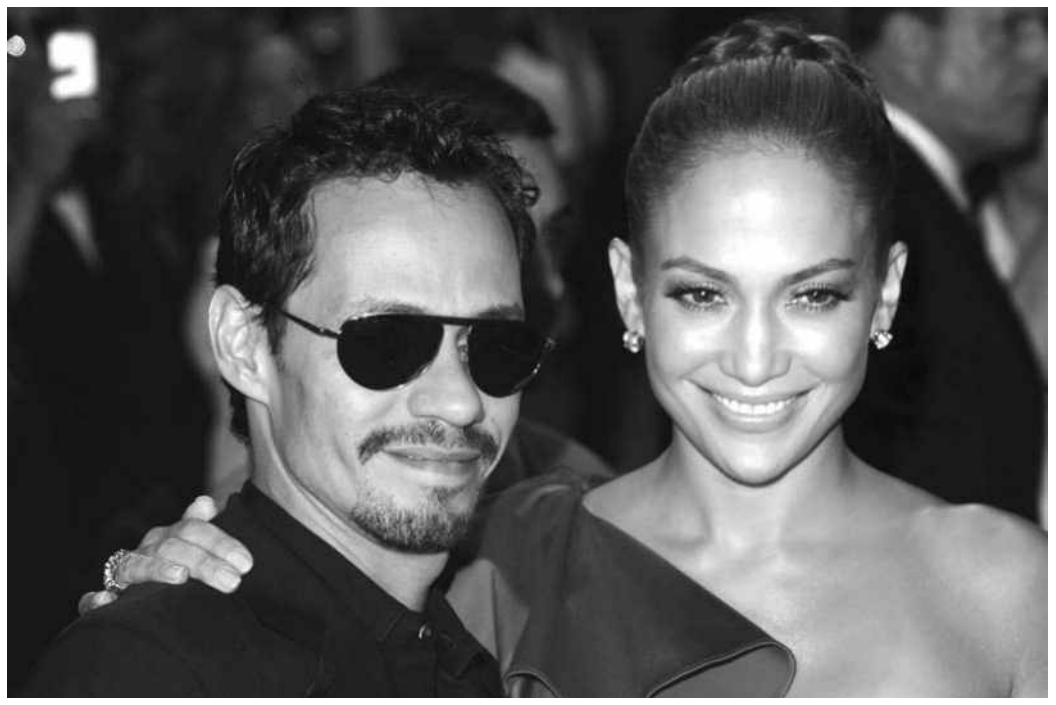
Lopez, also a judge on Fox's "American Idol," said she'd be open to doing another season if the first one is successful.

Anthony said that there's been a misconception that "Q'Viva! The Chosen" is just a talent show.

"We're not judges," he said. "We're show producers. We're putting together a live show and we're documenting the process."

Their time on stage was limited. The news conference began 30 minutes late, and a reporter shouted down a talkative emcee to demand that journalists be allowed to ask questions.

Only two were allowed before Univision began a musical performance. Afterward, the stars were hustled offstage as Adele's hit about a breakup, "Rolling in the Deep," was played over the public address system.



AP

In this June 7, 2011 photo, Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez attend the Samsung Hope for Children Gala in New York.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

ABC ditches 'Work It' sitcom

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—ABC's "Work It" is off duty. The network said Saturday that the sitcom about two men who dress as women to look for work is off the schedule after only two episodes aired. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation had protested the series, saying it mocked the transgender community. "Work It" attracted little interest from viewers. The Nielsen company said the second episode on Tuesday was seen by less than five million people. GLAAD's Herndon Graddick said Saturday that it was an outdated show. But he said it started a dialogue about discrimination faced by transgender people.

British crime writer Reginald Hill dies at 75

LONDON (AP)—A British literary association says crime writer Reginald Hill, famed for his Dalziel and Pascoe series of detective novels, has died. He was 75. Britain's Crime Writers' Association said Friday that Hill, awarded a lifetime contribution award by the organization in 1995, had died following a struggle with cancer. Hill, the author of more than 40 books, first worked as a teacher until the publication of his first novel "A Clubbable Woman" in 1970. His work came to international attention when his Dalziel and Pascoe series was dramatized for television by the BBC from 1996. Fellow crime writer Ian Rankin paid tribute in a message posted to Twitter. Hill was a "lovely man, fine writer, great wit," Rankin wrote. Hill is survived by his wife of 51 years, Pat.

Heather Locklear released from LA-area hospital

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Actress Heather Locklear was released Friday from a hospital after she was treated in the intensive care unit for an unknown ailment.

She was discharged in the afternoon, Los Robles Hospital spokeswoman Kris Carraway-Bowman told The Associated Press. The 50-year-old "Melrose Place" actress was hospitalized Thursday.

The hospital in the Los Angeles suburb of Thousand Oaks said earlier in the day that Locklear was medically stable and being cared for one-on-one in the ICU. Paramedics transported her from her home in Westlake Village, 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

AP

In this June 12, 2009 file photo, Heather Locklear arrives at the Women in Film Crystal Lucy Awards in Los Angeles.

Locklear has been hospitalized several times over the years. In 2009, she pleaded no contest to reckless driving after being arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of prescription medication.

Locklear also starred in such TV series as "Dynasty" and "T.J. Hooker."

Her engagement to "Melrose Place" co-star Jack Wagner recently ended. She was previously married to Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora, and they have a daughter together.

Nicole Kidman says off-screen privacy is key

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Nicole Kidman and Clive Owen play writers Martha Gellhorn and Ernest Hemingway in a new HBO film, but they'd prefer to keep their own lives off-screen.

At a news conference Friday promoting "Hemingway & Gellhorn," Kidman said she likes her privacy and protects it "quite diligently." She and husband Keith Urban live in Nashville, Tenn., with their two daughters.

Kidman's British co-star shares her viewpoint. Of a Clive Owen biopic, he said, "I wouldn't want to see it."

"Hemingway & Gellhorn" is set to air in May. It's about the passionate, short-lived relationship of Gellhorn, a daring war correspondent, and the great novelist.

Kidman says she enjoys portraying inspirational women "who defy the odds and that burn bright," as Gellhorn did.

Louis-Dreyfus researched role with US veeps

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Julia Louis-Dreyfus said Friday that she spoke with two U.S. vice presidents to research her role in an upcoming HBO comedy.

The former "Seinfeld" actress plays Vice President Selina Meyer in the series "Veep." HBO said the character discovers the job is nothing like she expected and everything she was warned about.

Louis-Dreyfus said she wanted to find out details about life as a vice president, including what it was like in the official residence. She said she asked the vice presidents about the most humiliating thing they had to go through as second-in-command.

"I was interested not in the grandeur of it, because you can always get that, but the nitty-gritty of it," she said.

She wouldn't reveal which vice presidents she spoke to, saying she wanted to keep the conversations private. But in an interview on Friday, Al Gore said he was one of them.

Gore said Louis-Dreyfus peppered him with questions for about an hour over coffee, wanting to learn details about what it was like to live in the security bubble.

He said he'll watch the series. "I'll give it a try, because I like her so much," Gore said.

The series debuts in April.

Woman torn by health issues yearns to feel whole again

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 40-year-old female in the military who has been married for a few years. When I got married, I was slim, had a full head of beautiful, long hair and hardly any medical problems. Over the last couple of years I have developed a host of medical issues, all related to the harsh conditions of my deployments.

My husband is shorter than I am, thin and three years younger. I have gained more than 40 pounds due to steroid treatments. I had to cut my long hair because it was falling out from stress. I look nothing like the woman I was when we were married. I look mannish!

Abby, my husband no longer seems proud to be seen with me in public. He won't hold my hand, and he walks behind me or ahead of me so it doesn't appear we're together. I have tried talking to him about it, but he pretends nothing is wrong.

I think we look ridiculous together. Now that I'm so unattractive, the differences in height and our ages bother me more. I am embarrassed, ashamed, avoiding social situations and becoming a recluse. Doctors won't do anything to help me because they say it's a "cosmetic" issue. I don't know where to begin to dig myself out of this miserable existence.

NO LONGER MYSELF IN MARYLAND

DEAR NO LONGER YOURSELF: I disagree with your doctors. This isn't a "cosmetic" issue. You are depressed! Please consult both another primary physician, preferably female, who can identify with the feelings you're having, and a psychologist.

Yes, you have put on weight, but patients aren't permanently on steroids. Your hair will grow out with time. But in the meantime, you may need psychological counseling to get you through this. Your husband may not be less proud to be seen with you. You may be projecting your own feelings onto him.

You're a strong woman. Please talk to a psychologist who can help you get your head straight. Happiness is the best cosmetic there is, and once you get a handle on your emotions, you will become your old self again.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: This is an open letter to parents out there who bring their kids to adults-only events because they couldn't get a baby sitter, but didn't want to miss out on a fun time. Listen, folks—when you signed on for parenthood, you gave up the privilege to party anytime you want. An invitation stating "adults only" means just that. Do not expect the hosts to tone it down because you were too selfish to stay home with your child.

I attended a 50th birthday party to which one mom brought her 5-year-old daughter. She then requested the host "sanitize" the event, but he refused. That mom spent most of the time covering her child's eyes. (She tried to cover the girl's ears, too, without success.)

Not only was there a racy birthday cake and adult toys as gifts, but the adults weren't holding back in conversations, either. Instead of leaving, the mom stayed—until the male stripper started performing. She was mad, but it was her own fault that her little daughter witnessed more than she should have.

Parents should be grown-ups. That means occasionally missing out on something because they are no longer single and childless. Please don't mess up somebody's party with your selfishness.

RESPONSIBLE MOM IN L.A.

DEAR RESPONSIBLE MOM: I agree. You have stated it well. Not only was it unfair to the host and other guests, it was inappropriate for the child.

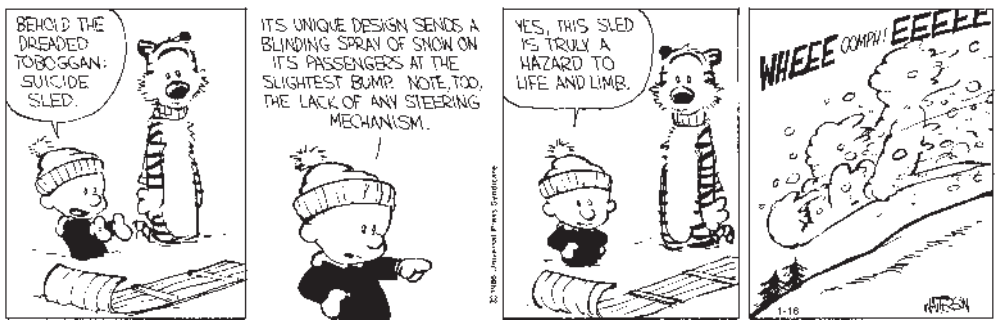
■■■

DEAR READERS: Today we remember the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was martyred in the cause of civil rights in 1968. "Nonviolence," he preached, "is a powerful and just weapon ... which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals." His was a voice of reason in a time of insanity, silenced too soon.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BEHOLD THE DREADED TOBOGGAN: SUICIDE SLED.
IT'S UNIQUE DESIGN SENDS A BLINDING SPRAY OF SNOW ON IT'S PASSENGERS AT THE SLIGHTEST BUMP. NOTE, TOO, THE LACK OF ANY STEERING MECHANISM.
YES, THIS SLED IS TRULY A HAZARD TO LIFE AND LIMB.
WHEEE
COMPA!
EEEEE
1-16

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, DO HOUSES SWEAT?
ONLY WHEN THE REMODELER COMES OVER.
HUH?
NO, HONEY. THEY DON'T SWEAT.
THEN WE HAVE A LEAK IN OUR CEILING.
I JUST HAD THAT ROOF PATCHED.
SHOULD I GET MY SEWING KIT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

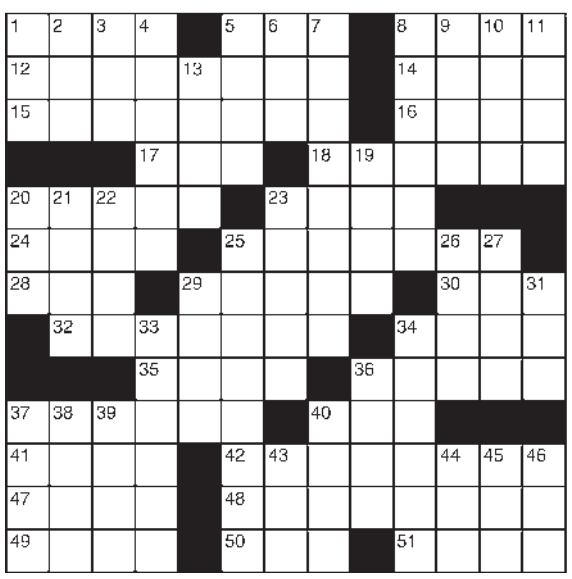
ACROSS
1 Largest continent
5 Humpty Dumpty
8 Carpet style
12 Like a superintendent's apartment, often
14 Couturier Chanel
15 Food closets
16 Top-notch
17 Years on end
18 Disposition
20 Tine
23 Belch
24 Contained
25 Lingers
28 Hammarskjöld of the U.N.
29 Incites
30 Cistern
32 Weds
34 — E. Coyote
35 Carry a load
36 Mediterranean island
37 Jellied incendiary
40 Listener
41 First person
42 Bakery offerings
47 Zilch
48 North Carolina cape
49 Census data
50 Take to court
51 Navy-related (Abbr.)

DOWN
1 Dadaist painter
2 Aegean, e.g.
3 Hostel
4 Go to
5 Ireland
6 "Gosh!"
7 Movements
8 Shrimp dish
9 Hula- —
10 Zits
11 No stay-at-home
13 Kermit is one
19 Blunders
20 Third deg.
21 Paper quantity
22 Gymnast Korbut
23 Holder for cream cheese and lox
25 Victories
26 Wicked
27 Sodium chloride
29 Caspian feeder
31 Afternoon gathering
33 Actor Ving
34 President Harding
36 Damon or Dillon
37 "Peter Pan" pooch
38 Work like —
39 Sheet of glass
40 Renaissance family name
43 Junior Olympics org.
44 Savings-plan acronym
45 Water (Fr.)
46 Former fast flier

Solution time: 24 mins.

T	I	R	U	■	S	T	A	B	■	Z	I	P
H	O	O	P	■	L	I	N	E	■	I	D	O
A	N	T	I	■	E	D	G	E	■	N	O	N
T	E	E	N	■	E	Y	E	■	U	G	L	Y
■	■	■	T	S	P	■	R	A	P	■	■	■
E	I	G	H	I	Y	■	S	O	F	I	L	E
M	I	M	E	O	■	■	R	O	O	K	S	■
S	I	T	A	R	S	■	S	T	R	E	E	T
■	■	■	I	M	P	■	H	A	G	■	■	■
C	I	A	R	■	I	C	Y	■	R	U	S	K
I	O	N	■	A	G	U	E	■	A	N	O	N
A	R	T	■	S	O	B	S	■	B	I	L	E
O	N	E	■	S	T	E	T	■	S	T	E	W

Saturday's answer 1-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trent Ford, 33; Kate Moss, 38; Debbie Allen, 62; John Carpenter, 64.

Happy Birthday: Don't limit the possibilities, and refrain from allowing anyone to hold you back or dump unwanted responsibilities in your lap. You must be free of clutter in order to move forward. Determination and drive will help you gain the confidence of people who have something to contribute to your plans. Update your attitude and your image. Your numbers are 5, 12, 16, 22, 25, 37, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stay below the radar. Your best work will come while in isolation. Lock yourself in and plug away at something you want to finish. Confrontations will not end well and are best avoided. Pampering will help ease your stress. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Opportunity knocks. Share your thoughts and discuss your plans. You will get great feedback and all the assistance you need to accomplish your goals. Love is highlighted and will be enhanced if you take part in a worthy cause. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Find a way to improve your work or what you have to offer and you will be in demand. Your insight, coupled with your ability to get the job done, will be what counts. Don't let an emotional problem stop you from forging forward. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put everything aside and focus on your well-being, as well as relationships that are important to you. You can accomplish a lot if you establish an understanding with the people you deal with the most, both personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Expect someone to force additional responsibilities on you. Try not to begrudge the extra work and you will get it done quickly, showing how efficient you can be. It's your attitude that will make a difference and help you get ahead. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Socialize with people who share your interests or have the potential to help you advance. Opportunity is within reach if you travel, pursue knowledge or offer your skills and experience to those who can contribute to your plans. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't worry about accomplishments. Spend your time enjoying someone you love or working on a project that brings you great joy and satisfaction. Creativity is highlighted and should be your intent personally, emotionally and physically. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Settle any differences you have with a colleague. Be upfront and put your concerns to rest so you can get on with what's important. Your ability to address what bothers you will bring you greater respect. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may want to help others, but don't get taken for granted. You must watch your finances and refrain from paying for an expense that isn't yours. Make changes that will allow you greater freedom at home and within your relationships. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Problems at home or when dealing with matters that concern friends, relatives or neighbors must be handled delicately. Remembering past experiences that involved emotional matters will help you get what you want tactfully. Let someone else's uncertainty be your prosperity. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You've got more going for you than you realize. Call the shots, and things will fall into place. Don't waffle. Being precise and going after what you want will bring you the stability and success you are searching for. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Set a standard and stick to it. Don't let anyone undermine or coerce you into something you don't want to do. Give others the same freedom you want, and you will gain approval and the help you need to succeed. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer, creator and visionary. You strive for perfection.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4				2		
		9	2		4	8		
5	1			8			3	9
	2		4		8		6	
		6				3		
	9		3		5		4	
8	6			4			2	7
		3	5		6	9		
		5				6		

Difficulty Level ★ 1/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	2	9	6	8	7	4	3
7	6	4	3	1	5	9	8	2
8	9	3	2	4	7	5	6	1
1	5	7	8	2	9	4	3	6
4	8	9	5	3	6	1	2	7
3	2	6	1	7	4	8	5	9
9	3	5	6	8	1	2	7	4
6	7	8	4	9	2	3	1	5
2	4	1	7	5	3	6	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AFTERNOON TEA — **Solution: 8 letters**

N	(B)	L	A	C	K	L	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S
O	(O)	S	R	E	C	U	A	S	S	P	O	N	G	E
O	(L)	M	T	I	C	E	Y	E	A	C	R	E	A	M
N	(D)	T	E	R	A	R	N	R	M	R	H	R	B	U
R	L	E	O	L	U	H	T	G	E	N	S	I	B	O
E	S	L	K	P	G	Y	C	F	L	E	E	A	N	R
T	L	T	S	A	A	R	R	I	I	A	G	E	A	A
F	E	S	I	M	C	E	E	R	N	U	N	S	R	N
A	A	C	P	U	S	T	T	B	E	N	P	D	B	G
T	V	O	B	H	C	S	I	T	N	B	A	R	E	E
S	E	N	M	U	A	S	T	U	E	E	E	M	C	P
A	S	E	T	P	T	E	I	R	R	W	T	U	O	K
O	N	S	M	A	J	T	R	B	E	F	P	T	L	N
T	R	E	A	T	S	Y	E	D	S	S	S	I	A	B
S	G	G	E	T	A	N	A	R	G	E	M	O	P	B

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Afternoon, Bags, Baguette, Battenberg, Biscuits, Black, Blueberry, Bold, Brewed, Business, Butter, Chai, China, Cinnamon, Cream, Cups, Eggs, England, Fruitcake, Green, Jams, Kettle, Leaves, Lemon, Meal, Milk, Orange, Party, Pastries, Pomegranate, Pots, Raspberry, Refreshment, Roll, Saucers, Scones, Sponge, Syrups, Teapot, Toast, Treats

Last Saturday's Answer: Decorate

...page 1B-LOL ... 1B-WORDWISE ... 2B-...3B-...4B-...5B-...6B-...7B-...8B-...9B-...10B-...11B-...12B-...13B-...14B-...15B-...16B-...17B-...18B-...19B-...20B-...21B-...22B-...23B-...24B-...25B-...26B-...27B-...28B-...29B-...30B-...31B-...32B-...33B-...34B-...35B-...36B-...37B-...38B-...39B-...40B-...41B-...42B-...43B-...44B-...45B-...46B-...47B-...48B-...49B-...50B-...51B-...

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DAY & NIGHT

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
JVA No. 12-004

Opening Date: Wednesday, 1/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday, 1/18/12**

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs investigations. Writes reports. Performs smoke test. Performs chlorine test. Performs utility meter tests. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TESTING.

Location: *Chief Financial Officer,* ***SAIPAN.***
Salary: $16,000 to $17,282 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
Position: Two (2).
Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, or GED, or ABE. Experience in wastewater trades duties: Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels. Experience in water trades duties: Operating reservoirs and distribution valves; Monitoring reservoir level and water levels; Responding to customer complaints; Installing, maintaining and repairing water lines; Monitoring chlorine gas in the water system; Installing and/or replacing water meters; Performing disconnects and reconnects. Experience in power distribution trades activities: Testing apparatus to ensure proper operating conditions on low and high voltage; Troubleshooting power failures. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing daily reports; Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. MUST HAVE A VALID CNMI DRIVER'S LICENSE.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-003

Opening Date: Wednesday 01/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday 01/18/12**

METER READER

DUTIES: The incumbent in this position will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee. Responsibilities and duties include but are not limited to: Reads electric and water meters using a handheld device. Operates government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure are in proper working order. Prepares and submits deficiency or problem reports on meters. Assists other departments in finding customer locations and with service verifications. Locates new customers and ensures customers are hooked up and added to the system. Perform meter change outs. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $12,262.00 - $15,139.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and two years work experience. Knowledge of: Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-001

Opening Date: Wednesday, 01/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday, 01/18/12**

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Handles travel arrangements; Preparing estimates for travel; Processing travel documents such as authorizations, travel voucher claims and advances; Providing accounting support during annual audits; Analyzing contract payables; Encoding travel liquidation, refunds and payroll allotments. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $20,000 - $23,200.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associates Degree in Accounting or related field and three years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-002

Opening Date: Wednesday,01/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday, 01/18/12**

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $17,282.00 - $19,425.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and three years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

Patriots stop Tebow, Broncos in AFC playoff

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—FOXBOROUGH, Mass. Tom Brady's way of dealing with Tebowmania was to silence it with a record-shattering performance.

Brady threw six touchdown passes, five in the first half, putting the New England Patriots into the AFC championship game after roughing up Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos 45-10 Saturday night.

The Patriots (14-3), winners of nine straight games, will host either Baltimore or Houston next Sunday for a spot in the Super Bowl. Saturday night's romp snapped a three-game postseason losing streak, two of those at Gillette Stadium, and lifted the Patriots to the verge of their fifth Super Bowl appearance in 11 seasons. They've won three of those.

From the first snap, this was a mismatch. The Patriots were not going to make the same mistakes the Steelers made against this team.

A nation transfixed by Tebow's play, if not his principles, tuned in Saturday to see if he had more heroics in store for Brady and company. He had nothing left as the Patriots made this must-see TV only for those who live in New England.

With New England up 42-7, the fans began their derisive Teeee-bow chants. On the next play, the Broncos quarterback was sacked for an 11-yard loss - one of five sacks for New England's 31st-ranked defense.

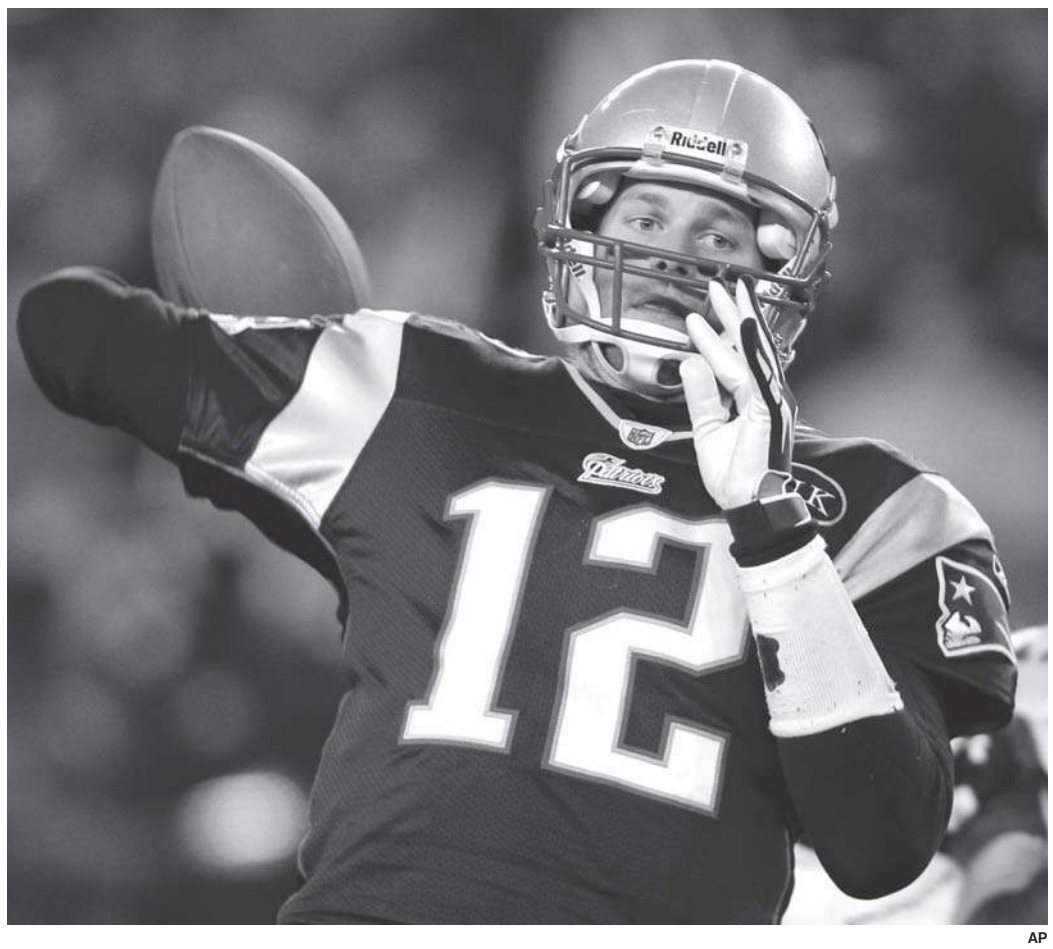
And so ended one of the season's most exciting story lines - one that began when Denver was 1-4 and made Tebow a starter. The one-time third-stringer promptly won six in a row and seven of eight, with a string of stunning comebacks. That surge ended with a 41-23 home loss to New England, and the Broncos dropped their next two, backing into the AFC West title.

But they rebounded nicely in their first playoff game since the 2005 season with the longest overtime touchdown in playoff history, an 80-yard catch and run by Demaryius Thomas against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Like everyone else on the Broncos' offense, Thomas was invisible against the Patriots.

Denver couldn't cover or tackle All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski, who tied a postseason mark with three touchdown catches, all in the opening half. Brady toyed with the Broncos (9-9), throwing more TD passes than Tebow had completions (three) in the first 30 minutes.

His sixth TD was to his other tight end, Aaron Hernandez, as Brady tied Steve Young and Daryle Lamonica for the most in a postseason game.

The two-time league MVP threw for 5,235 yards during the season, second in NFL history to Drew Brees' 5,476 in 2011. He looked ready to get that much against the Broncos as he moved to third place in career touchdown passes in the playoffs with 36, trailing Joe Montana (45) and Brett Favre (44).



AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reaches back to pass during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Denver Broncos Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, in Foxborough, Mass.

Brady was 26 for 34 for 363 yards and Gronkowski made 10 catches for 145 yards as the Patriots gained 509 yards in all. In stark contrast, Tebow was 9 for 26 for 136 yards.

The Broncos won the coin toss and elected to defer. Bad idea: They never were in the game after that.

Brady hit his first eight passes for 79 yards and two touchdowns. Offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien, who's leaving to become Penn State's coach once the Patriots are done, threw in a wrinkle by using Hernandez as a running back. On one of those plays, Hernandez broke free down the left sideline for a 43-yard gain, the team's longest run this season.

But with the ball in his hands and a 14-0 lead, Brady momentarily stumbled. His throw over the middle for Julian Edelman sailed directly to safety Quinton Carter, whose weaving return set up Denver at the New England 24.

Willis McGahee scored on a 5-yard run.

Carter left the game moments later with a neck injury; Denver was already without strong safety Brian Dawkins with a neck problem. And it's secondary had no chance without them.

Yes, Brady had cooled off in the 24-degree temperature (wind chill of 12), but only for a while.

Using the no-huddle, and aided by an effective running game, Brady hit three passes for 31 yards, with Gronkowski getting free over the middle this time for the 12-yard score. Several times, and not just on his romps into the end zone, Gronkowski simply shoved aside would-be tacklers to tack on yards after catches.

Brady's TDs covered 10, 12 and 19 yards to Gronkowski, 7 to Wes Welker, 61 to Deion Branch and 17 yards to Hernandez early in the third quarter. Coach Bill Belichick wasn't about to back off at that point, but the Patriots stalled inside the Denver 5 early in the four period and Stephen Gostkowski made a 21-yard field goal to conclude New England's scoring.

Hernandez left in the fourth quarter with a head injury.

49ers 36, Saints 32

In San Francisco, what a way to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of "The Catch."

Joe Montana to Dwight Clark then.

Alex Smith to Vernon Davis now.

Smith completed a 14-yard touchdown pass to Davis with 9 seconds left just after Drew Brees had put the high-powered Saints ahead, and resurgent San Francisco capitalized on five New Orleans turnovers for a thrilling 36-32 playoff victory Saturday.

"This is huge for us," Davis said. "It's history, legendary, anything you can describe."

Smith ran for a 28-yard TD with 2:11 left and threw another scoring pass to Davis in the first quarter. Coach Jim Harbaugh's NFC West champions (14-3) proved that a hard-hitting, stingy defense can still win in the modern, wide-open NFL by holding off one of league's most dynamic offenses.

Brees completed a 66-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Graham with 1:37 left and the Saints seemed poised to rally from an early 17-point deficit when Smith and Davis delivered once more. It was a wild back-and-forth finish featuring an impressive passing duel over the waning moments.

Their highlight show came in the opposite end zone from where Clark caught a stretched-out 6-yard pass from Montana on Jan. 10, 1982. Saturday's game-winner by a leaping Davis - who plowed over a defender as he landed - came in the same end zone where Steve Young hit Terrell Owens for a winning TD with 3 seconds left in a 30-27 wild-card win over the Packers in the 1999 playoffs. T.O.'s grab became known as "The Catch II."

How about this one?

"You've got to call it the grab," Davis said of his play. "We were down. I had to make it happen to take my teammates where we want to go."

San Francisco triumphed in its first playoff game in nine years and will move on to face the New York Giants or defending champion Green Bay Packers, who play Sunday. A win by the Giants would give the 49ers the home field.

The 49ers pulled off another last-second win in a season full of them—and on a day former coach George Seifert served as honorary captain for the coin toss. San Francisco came from behind for five victories during the regular season, four on the road.

Davis, who wept on the sideline afterward days after saying he was overwhelmed early by Harbaugh's thick playbook, finished with seven catches for 180 yards. It was the most yards receiving by a tight end in a playoff game. He averaged 25.7 yards per catch.

Brees came up big down the stretch just as he did throughout a record-setting season, also hitting Darren Sproles for a 44-yard TD with 4:02 remaining - one of Sproles' 15 catches for 119 yards.

"It stings right now because of the expectation level that we had coming into this tournament and understanding that if we win here we're into the NFC championship game and anything can happen," Brees said. "That's tough. Tough to swallow at this point."

The 49ers also showed that defense can still dominate in the days of big passers like Brees.

With Donte Whitner bringing the bruising hits and Dashon Goldson, Patrick Willis and their defensive mates pressuring Brees and forcing turnovers from every angle, surprising San Francisco is a win away from returning to the Super Bowl for the first time since capturing the proud franchise's fifth championship after the 1994 season.

Maggert tied for lead at Sony Open

HONOLULU (AP)—Matt Every had a hard time sleeping on the lead going into the weekend at the Sony Open. He managed a 2-under 68 on Saturday, and goes into the final round tied with 47-year-old Jeff Maggert with a lot more at stake.

Maggert played bogey-free in relatively calm conditions at Waialae, making an eagle on the easy par-5 ninth for the second straight day, and shot a 64 to give himself a chance to win for the first time in nearly six years.

They were at 12-under 198, two shots clear, but with more than a dozen players still in the hunt.

Charles Howell III, who has had five finishes in the top five at the Sony Open, gave himself another opportunity with a 66. He was in the group at 10-under 200. Pebble Beach winner D.A. Points shot 64 and was another shot back, while the large group at 8-under 202 included Steve Stricker, trying to join Ernie Els in 203 as the only players to sweep the Hawaii events.

The surprise was Maggert.

Not only is he closing in on the 50-and-older Champions Tour, he finally took care of a bone spur in his right shoulder that has been bothering him the last few years. Maggert had surgery in June and had a medical exemption for part of this year, but he went to Q-school for a backup plan.

It worked. He made it through Q-school for a little more security, and then built more momentum with a solid day. He had to scramble for par on the opening hole, and the rest of the day felt easy.

Every, meanwhile, hasn't had an easy time this week.

He had an awkward interview with Golf Channel after his 64 on Friday, and his comments about an arrest on a misdemeanor marijuana possession charge at the John Deere Classic in 2010 became a hot topic.

"I'm just ready to get it over with," he said.

That's not to suggest he's dreading the final round. Every felt the nerves of protecting a two-shot lead in the third round, and said one reason he had trouble sleeping was that he had a lot to lose.

He went long of the green at No. 2 to make bogey, and his round was close to getting away from him. His approach on the third hole flirted with the water down the left side and barely was safe. He chipped to 8 feet and made par.

"If I miss that—2 over after three—and then the next thing you know, I could have made another bogey and then it's just kind of survival mode," he said.

But he steadied himself quickly, helped by a 30-foot birdie putt on the eighth and a two-putt birdie on the ninth that allowed him to regain control.

What he couldn't control was Maggert, who is starting to feel healthy again. Along with the shoulder, Maggert says he hasn't felt right since he broke a rib early in 2007 during a snow skiing trip - but the injury didn't happen on the slopes.

"It was afterwards, coming out of the grocery store," he said. "True story. Tripped on the ice and fell and broke my rib on the curb."

The timing couldn't have been worse. Maggert had won the St. Jude Classic in 2006 and was on the ski trip before going to Maui for the Tournament of Champions. He tried to play through the pain, and thinks it affected the technique in his swing.

"I feel like it's a lot better than it has been," he said.

The leaderboard is so bunched that Duffy Waldorf was walking up to the ninth green and saw that he was tied for 40th. He also noticed that he was only five shots out of the lead.

"It's such a good bunching of players, it was like, `Well, if I go make some more birdies, I might get back in it.' And that's what happened on the back side," he said.

Waldorf shot 31 on the back for a 66, and goes into the final day only three shots behind.

Paul powers Clippers past Lakers, 102-94

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Paul scored 33 points, Blake Griffin had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers led all the way in beating the Lakers 102-94 on Saturday night despite 42 points by Kobe Bryant.

Chauncey Billups added 19 points, former Laker Caron Butler had 13 points and DeAndre Jordan had 10 rebounds in the Clippers' second win in four days over one of the NBA's elite teams.

The Clippers beat Miami 95-89 in overtime on Wednesday and have won five of their last six.

Bryant notched his fourth straight game of 40 or more points but the Lakers had their five-game winning streak snapped by their Staples Center co-tenants, who beat them twice in the preseason.

AP

Los Angeles Clippers' Chris Paul, left, shoots as he is defended by Los Angeles Lakers' Darius Morris during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012.

Mavericks 99, Kings 60

In Dallas, Jason Terry scored 21 points, Vince Carter added 16, and the Dallas Mavericks stretched their winning streak to five games with a 99-60 rout of the Sacramento Kings on Saturday night.

Dirk Nowitzki contributed 14 points in a little over 20 minutes for the reigning NBA champs (8-5), who've won six in a row at home after a 0-2 start.

Both teams were playing their fourth game in five nights, but the Mavericks were fresher after resting their starters throughout the fourth quarter of Friday night's 102-76 victory over Milwaukee.

Jazz 107, Nets 94

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored 20 points and reserve C.J. Miles added 17 in Utah's 107-94 win over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday night, spoiling the return of former Jazz All-Star guard Deron Williams.

Williams was coming off a 35-point effort Friday in Phoenix but struggled in his first game back in Utah since his February trade.

He started 0 of 3, was just 2 of 12 at halftime and finished with 16 points on 3-of-15 shooting for New Jersey (3-10). Kris Humphries led the Nets with 18 points.

Grizzlies 108, Hornets 99

In Memphis, Rudy Gay scored 23 points, Marc Gasol added 20 points and 11 rebounds and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the New Orleans Hornets 108-99 Saturday night.

Mike Conley had 17 points and seven assists, while Marreese Speights and Tony Allen finished with 12 points apiece.

Jarrett Jack led New Orleans with 23 points, while Jason Smith had 15, including 10 in the fourth quarter as the Hornets cut into the lead. Greivis Vasquez scored 14 points and handed out six assists. Marco Belinelli contributed 10 points.

Bulls 77, Raptors 64

In Chicago, Derrick Rose had 18 points and 11 assists, leading the Chicago Bulls to a 77-64 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Saturday night.

Rose keyed a seven-point burst to open the fourth period, assisting on three straight field goals. John Lucas III hit a 3-pointer and Taj Gibson scored twice, opening up an 11-point lead for Chicago.

Carlos Boozer added 17 points and Luol Deng had 14 points for Chicago, which won its fifth straight and improved to a league-best 12-2. Taj Gibson scored nine of his 11 points in the fourth.

Pacers 97, Celtics 83

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 21 points to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 97-83 victory over Boston on Saturday night, the Celtics' fourth straight loss.

Paul George and Darren Collison each scored 17 points and Roy Hibbert added 11 points and nine rebounds for the Pacers (9-3), who won their third straight. The Pacers improved to 5-0 at home, with four wins by double digits.

Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett both scored 21 points for the Celtics, but Brandon Bass was the only other Celtic in double figures with 10 points. Boston (4-7) fell to 1-4 on the road.

Bobcats 112, Warriors 100

In Charlotte, Rookie Kemba Walker made the most of his first NBA start, scoring a career-high 23 points to lift the Charlotte Bobcats to a 112-100 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Saturday night.

With the Bobcats mired in a six-game losing streak, coach Paul Silas benched veteran Boris Diaw, saying he wanted to see a different look with a smaller lineup. Diaw, who had started a franchise-record 235 straight games, had scored just three points in the last two games and had drawn criticism from Silas.

"We weren't playing with that much energy and we weren't getting that much out of Boris, to tell you the truth," Silas said.

Hawks 93, Timberwolves 91

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 25 points, Ivan Johnson hit the clinching free throws with 4.6 seconds remaining and the Atlanta Hawks rallied from from 18 points down to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves, 93-91, on Saturday night.

Kevin Love missed a potential game-tying jump shot at the buzzer, but finished with 30 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, which was trying to win consecutive road games for the first time since last Feb. 7-8 at New Orleans and Houston. The Timberwolves were coming off a seven-point victory Friday against the Hornets.

Jeff Teague added 20 points and 10 assists for the Hawks, who overcame a season-high 20 turnovers to win their second straight game after losing Al Horford to a torn pectoral muscle that will sideline the starting center for three to four months.

Thunder 104, Knicks 92

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 28 points as the Thunder raced past the New York Knicks 104-92 on Saturday, notching their sixth straight NBA win.

James Harden added 24 off the bench and Russell Westbrook was on his way to his sixth career triple-double with 21 points, eight rebounds and eight assists before coach Scott Brooks pulled his All-Stars with the hosts up by 30 points late in the third quarter.

New York played without Carmelo Anthony because of a sprained ankle and injured wrist, but it was the Knicks' defense that went missing.

Rockets 107, Blazers 105

In Houston, Kyle Lowry scored a season-high 33 points, Kevin Martin hit four free throws in the final seconds of overtime and the Houston Rockets beat the Portland Trail Blazers 107-105 on Saturday night.

LaMarcus Aldridge's basket with 23 seconds left in regulation sent the game into overtime tie at 97. Portland lost its third straight game.

Martin, who finished with 28 points, scored Houston's final six points in overtime with a layup and four free throws over the final 32 seconds of the extra period.

Sixers 103, Wizards 90

In Washington, the Philadelphia 76ers might not have a big-name player. They've still become one of the hottest teams in the NBA with their brand of team-oriented basketball.

Philadelphia won for the eighth time in nine games Saturday night, beating the Washington Wizards 103-90. Lou Williams came off the bench to score 24 points, and Andre Iguodala added a season-high 23.

But the more important stat was the eight turnovers, which tied Philadelphia's season low and continued a trend. The 76ers entered the game with the best turnover mark in the league.

Ali still the Greatest as he celebrates 70th

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)--"Rumble, young man, rumble," used to be his battle cry.

But Muhammad Ali is an old man now, ravaged by his years in the ring and his decades of braving Parkinson's disease. The voice that used to bellow that he was "The Greatest" is largely muted now, save for those times in the mornings when he is able to whisper his thoughts.

The face, though, is still that of the most recognizable man on earth. Maybe not as finely chiseled as it was in his prime, but close enough.

"It's not like he doesn't look like himself," said his oldest daughter, Maryum "May May" Ali. "It's the same face, the Parkinson's hasn't affected that.'"

Ali turns 70 on Tuesday, giving Baby Boomers who grew up with him one more reason to reflect on their own advancing years.

He's fought Parkinson's the way he fought the late Joe Frazier, never giving an inch. But it's a fight he can't win, and nearly 30 years of living with it has taken a heavy toll.

His days at home with wife, Lonnie, in a gated community near Phoenix, generally follow the same routine: He gets out of bed and takes a shower before easing into his favorite chair for long hours at a time.

Sometimes he will watch videos of his old fights. The hands will move, eyes will twitch, as he remembers the magnificent fighter and physical specimen he once was.

"I always say the only person who likes to watch old Muhammad Ali fights more than me is him," said John Ramsey, a Louisville radio and television personality who has been a close friend of Ali's for more than 30 years. "His memory is better than mine and he's very sharp. His sense of humor is still there, too."

Through it all he remains a proud man. There are no complaints. No time spent bemoaning his fate.

It is, the devout Muslim would say, God's will.

"He would always just say to his family, `These are the cards I was dealt, so don't be sad,'" Maryum Ali said. "He never played the victim. There was never any `Woe is me.'"

That he is still alive so long after being diagnosed with the degenerative disease may be a tribute to the athleticism and inner strength that helped him stop Frazier on a brutally hot morning in the Philippines and helped him knock out the fearsome George Foreman in Africa. Among the heavyweights of his generation he was a big man, standing 6-foot-2 and usually weighing in at around 210 pounds.

He's stooped now and weighs much less. But his arms are those of a younger man, and his body still shows signs of the magnificent sculpting of days gone by. Every Sunday, his doctor in Phoenix makes a house call to make sure he's doing OK.

There are medications to help relieve his symptoms; there is no cure for Parkinson's.

"The Parkinson's has affected him a lot, one of things he has is a lot of difficulty speaking," said Dr. Abraham Lieberman, director of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson's Center in Phoenix. "But he's never downbeat about it. He's a tremendous inspiration to everyone."

In November, a few days after he traveled to Philadelphia to say goodbye to Frazier, Ali was rushed to a Phoenix-area hospital. His family later brushed it off as nothing more than dehydration.

The fact he was quickly back resting at home didn't surprise those who really know him.

"Ali was always at his best when things were the worst," said Gene Kilroy, his former business manager and good friend. "It's the kind of man he is."

Ali, his daughter says, is in the late stages of Parkinson's now, a time when doctors say patients are particularly susceptible to things that can kill them.

Mixed Blood Shooters 2, Oh! MG lead SEDA winners

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

D'Pirates Choice Bar's Mixed Blood Shooters 2 and Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG came away as the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2011 Summer/Fall Bud-Light Cup champions in the Tuesday B-League and C division groupings.

Mixed Blood 2 came into the tournament ranked seventh of a field of 10, but pulled out an 8-1 stunner over Strike Force at Jonny's Bar & Grill on January 3 to top the event.

Oh! MG came into SEDA's C division event as the fifth seed and took out ninth-ranked World-C, 8-2.

Mixed Blood 2 is made up of Roderick Osorio, Manding Legaspi, Bernard Paras, Mario Espinoza, Frank Codog, and Ermin Nufable.

Mixed Blood advanced past No.4 GCC Carpeters in the first round and knocked off top-ranked D'Pirates' Sabalu Boys before vanquishing No.5 Es'y Kitchen's Shawarma Boys leading up to its big finish.

No. 7 Strike Force infiltrated the tournament under the radar and received a first round bye before cutting through No.8 Ombre Za and No.9 VFW Post 3457's Assashunz but was picked off by Mixed Blood 2.

In the finals, Mixed Blood 2 swept both 501 matches, three of four crazy cricket games, both 701 games, and clinched the match after a pair of single baseball pairings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG, seen here in a file photo, defeated World-C, 8-2, in the C division of the 2011 SEDA Summer Fall Bud Light Cup championship match.

In the C division, Oh! MG drew a first round bye and defeated No. 6 D'Pirates Lucky Shot and then upset the No. 4 Sparks en route to the finals.

Notably, the C division favorite, Sand's Bar's Anies Imuza, was ousted in the first round by second-ranked VFW Post 3457's Oneshot, while the No. 3 Sparks upset D'Pirates Yotsketeh Boys in round one and stunned One Shot for a valiant push into the semifinals.

In the finals, Oh! MG swept both 501 games, three of four crazy cricket matches, a game of 701, a secured the title after three straight singles baseball wins. Oh! MG members include Jarick Atalig, Donovan P. Castro, Carol Chargualaf, Pasqual Guerrero, Arisa S. Peters, Angela Santos, Nick Rabauliman and Andy Golden.

Meanwhile, D'Pirates' Mixed Blood Shooters 1 pulled off a sweep in the A division with a 9-4 victory over the fifth-ranked Proofers. The champion team is made up of Romy Intendez, Joshua Wodson, Dean Borja, Mario Jumalon, Mario Espinoza, and Rolly Morales.

The group went through division runners-up D-Pirates' Bud Brothers and No.4 Celebrity before capping off its fruitful season. Before the finals, the Proofers advanced past the No. 6 Primos and the No. 7 Trouble Shooters of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill.

In the finals, Mixed Blood 1 swept both opening games of wild cricket, took three of four singles baseball matches, a game of cutthroat, both 701 contests, and clinched the win with three consecutive singles cricket victories.

The SEDA awards banquet is scheduled to take place at 10:30am on Jan. 22 at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

BLUE

From Page 28

Badong Camacho was the recipient of most of those extra feeds, as he loitered in the paint and made a bundle from the baseline and also hit numerous short jumpers to finish with a game-high 21 points and win the Final MVP award. Another big man—George Cruz—gave Blue Haus a big lift, collaring offensive rebounds for putbacks. Cruz's contribution was crucial, as Jun Abedes got into foul trouble early.

Completing Blue Haus' balance attack were guards Brandon Talania and Edwin Camacho, who combined for 23 points, conniving in a couple of fastbreak breaks and long jumpers. Marlon Sison, Sam Fernandez, and Leo Itaas also had their share in the pie, teaming up for 13 markers and giving their starters a breather.

Eight of nine Blue Haus players scored with only playing coach Dante Olivos failing to lit up the scoreboard, as he opted to pass the ball often when he checked in at the closing minutes of the match.

Now for MDX, the curse of sweeping the regular season only to lose the most important game in the league hit the pennant champion.

MDX was in a disarray on offense, as it failed to get its fastbreak game going, missed a lot from downtown, and was pushed out of the shaded lane. MDX was held to one field goal in the first 4:30 of the match and Blue Haus raced to an early 11-3 lead. The struggle continued until the first six minutes of the second quarter, as MDX's score was still in single digit, 9-23. The first half ended with Blue Haus enjoying a 30-14 advantage.

The scores breakdown for MDX was very disappointing with eventual regular season MVP Alex Lauron held to one point, Zack Babauta scoreless, Ben Lisua limited to two points, and Ziddy Johanes and Mike Palacios nailed four points each.

In their semis win against Wushin Express, Lauron finished with nine and was a force in the paint, but Blue Haus' double teaming defense at the post pushed him out of his comfort zone. Babauta muffed all his shots in the first half and he and Johanes failed to team up in MDX's potent fastbreak play. Lisua, who had 24 points in the semis win, failed to can a single shot from downtown to finish with only five points and also had a hard time penetrating Blue Haus' baseline defense, while Palacios went in and out of the court, as he was saddled by fouls.

MDX fans hoped for a big second-half turnaround, but things just went from bad into worse for the pennant champion.

MDX drilled only two field goals in the first six minutes of the third period, allowing Blue Haus to take its biggest lead, 43-18, after Talania's triple off another kick-off pass. MDX finally managed to shoot up its scoring in the 20s with a string of points from Lisua and Dexter Tenorio, but Blue Haus still maintained a double-digit lead at the end of the third, 46-28.

In the fourth quarter, Babauta hit his first field goal—a triple—while Tenorio fired six straight points, as MDX threatened a comeback, 37-50. However, that was the closest MDX could get, as Blue Haus regrouped with Camacho making back-to-back baskets and two free throws and forcing Alex Lauron to give up two quick fouls early in the fourth. Lauron left the game with still over eight minutes left and that sealed the doom for MDX.

By the end of the buzzer, which sounded after Marlon Sison hit an triple to put the exclamation mark on Blue Haus' emphatic win, only one MDX player broke into double figures with Tenorio tallying 11. MDX made only one triple, a far cry from its nine treys in the semis.

Blue Haus 70 – B. Camacho 21, Talania 14, E. Camacho 9, Abedes 9, Itaas 8, Cruz 7, Sison 3, Fernandez 3.

MDX 43 – Tenorio 11, Palacios 8, Johanes 8, Lisua 5, Babauta 3, Jeong 2, Lauron 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-9, 30-14, 46-28, 70-43.

THEA

From Page 28

of Fiji.

The top-seeded Shannon then foiled Minor's finals bid with a victory after two sets last Saturday. Shannon dominated the Commonwealth bet in the first set, 6-0, but struggled in the second set before ousting Minor, 7-6. Shannon eventually bowed to Tuvalu's Alesi Molotii in the finals, 4-6, 1-6.

Besides the U16 singles, Minor also joined the doubles event in Wodonga, but she and Puluspune lost to Australia's Julia Stutsel and Victoria Toole in the first round last Saturday, 6-0, 6-2.

Joining Minor in the same tournament were Tammy Ackerman and Christian Miller.

Ackerman was entered in the main draw of the girls U12 singles and made it all the way to the quarterfinals. The 12-year-old netter first defeated Kirsten Waters, 6-2, 7-6, and then stunned fifth-ranked Taylah Mielczarek, 7-5, 6-3, to march into the Round of 8. In the quarterfinals, Ackerman went on to lose to No. 4 seed Peta Valos, 3-6, 6-3, 2-6. The CNMI netter then notched one victory in the loser's bracket to finish sixth out of 30 players in the U12 singles.

Miller survived the 28-player qualifying draw, winning over No. 11 seed Beau Mathew Pleming, 7-5, 6-2, and sixth-ranked Lachlan Skinner, 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, but dropped his opening match in the main draw last Thursday, bowing to Damien Minguez, 6-4, 6-2. Miller fell to the loser's bracket and also lost to Bernard Richter, 3-6, 3-6.

SOUTHERN

From Page 28

The Rays established an early 15-5 lead in the opening 10 minutes of the varsity match.

A three-pointer by Southern's Clarence Sablan provided the cushion late in the period.

GCA hung around early in the game, but SSHS found its rhythm in the second quarter and pulled away at halftime, 37-13. The Rays shut down GCA's captain Angelo Salas in the second frame and capitalized on a couple of late treys on the other end.

Southern then overwhelmed the Eagles after the pause and amassed a 65-23 lead, heading into the final period.

Rays captain Jack Aranda led the charge with 12 points, while speedster Jaymark De Guzman added six. Salas did a good job spreading the ball around in the third quarter, but could not get his own shots to drop.

The game was out of GCA's reach by the start of the fourth quarter and Southern's Nevin Salem came off the bench and added six points for good measure.

Aranda led three teammates in double digits with 21 points, while Salas finished with a baker's dozen.

In the junior varsity game, Southern held GCA to just one point for three quarters and boasted a 17-1 lead, heading into crunch time.

Southern's Emerson Feria delivered eight of the Rays' 14 points in the first half. GCA was shut out in the opening period and managed only a free throw in the second quarter.

The Eagles were blanked again in the third frame, but contained Southern to only a couple of baskets and had a chance to mount a comeback in the final period.

GCA's offense finally showed signs of life late in the game, but the Rays' Edelberto Javier III brought home the win with six points in the clutch. Feria led Southern with 10 markers and he and Javier combined for 19 in the contest.

Jomari Smithee scrambled for a team-high seven points during GCA's late surge.

Junior Varsity Game

SSHS 31 – Feria 10, Javier III 9, Camacho 6, Cruz 2, Acopiado 2, Ferrer 2.

GCA 13 – Smithee 7, Ha Lee 3, Hernandez 3.

Scoring by quarters: 8-0, 14-1, 17-1, 31-13.

Varsity Game

SSHS 77 – Aranda 21, Sablan 12, DeGuzman 10, Salem 10, Hofschneider 7, Tudela 6, Escalada 5, Mariano 4, Alegre 2

GCA 37 – A. Salas 13, Woo 10, J. Salas 6, Libut 4, Borja 2, Lee 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-5, 37-13, 65-23, 77-37.

TWO

From Page 28

portion of Navy Hill Road and turned right onto the XTERRA run course and headed back to the starting line.

Joining Sublemente and Villafria (29:52), who was also the runner-up in Enticer 1, in the Top 3 was Aric Bickel (30:21).

Father and son Tom and Jack Linden crossed the finish line together, completing the Tagaman course (flat and minus the trail) in 30:05.

Meanwhile, other finishers of the XTERRA trail were Brian Morris ((30:48), Charlie Sendin (31:08), Travis Spaeth (36:55), John Auther (38:21), Logan Mister (38:21), Tyce Mister (38:22), Joe Auther (40:27), John Douglas (40:43), Jose Quan (41:48), Alexander Racome (42:31), Dawn Hammermeister (43:19), Jason Tarkong (43:55), Peter Vilaga (47:11), Manny Sitchon (47:15), Roxie Lamar (1:00:27), Ben Babauta (1:00:28), Tamio Nishido (1:00:29), Joshua Berger (1:00:30), Kaisei Toda (1:03:34), Andrew Johnson (1:03:34), James Abuy (1:04:10), Darwin Barbo (1:04:10), June Evangelista (1:04:10), Rommel Bartolo (1:04:10), Edgar Abalos (1:04:29), Kathy and Brad Ruszala (1:04:29), and Roy Adsit (1:12:54)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	9	3	.750	–
New York	6	6	.500	3
Boston	4	7	.364	4 1/2
Toronto	4	9	.308	5 1/2
New Jersey	3	10	.231	6 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	8	3	.727	–
Atlanta	9	4	.692	–
Miami	8	4	.667	1/2
Charlotte	3	10	.231	6
Washington	1	11	.083	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	12	2	.857	–
Indiana	9	3	.750	2
Cleveland	5	6	.455	5 1/2
Milwaukee	4	7	.364	6 1/2
Detroit	3	9	.250	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	8	4	.667	–
Dallas	8	5	.615	1/2
Memphis	5	6	.455	2 1/2
Houston	5	7	.417	3
New Orleans	3	9	.250	5

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	11	2	.846	–
Denver	8	4	.667	2 1/2
Utah	7	4	.636	3
Portland	7	5	.583	3 1/2
Minnesota	4	8	.333	6 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	6	3	.667	1/2
L.A. Lakers	9	5	.643	–
Phoenix	4	7	.364	3 1/2
Sacramento	4	9	.308	4 1/2
Golden State	3	8	.273	4 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Atlanta 93, Minnesota 91
Charlotte 112, Golden State 100
Indiana 97, Boston 83
Philadelphia 103, Washington 90
Chicago 77, Toronto 64
Houston 107, Portland 105, OT
Oklahoma City 104, New York 92
Memphis 108, New Orleans 99
Utah 107, New Jersey 94
Dallas 99, Sacramento 60
L.A. Clippers 102, L.A. Lakers 94

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

MISO competitions top week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

High school student-athletes made headlines last week with the opening of three leagues in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization.

The MISO boys caging kicked off at the Marianas High School Gymnasium with MHS, Saipan Southern High School, Grace Christian Academy, Kagman High School, and Mt. Carmel School fielding their respective varsity teams in the annual league. Saipan International School is also in the MISO league, but only has a junior varsity team.

A day after the MISO caging opener, the association also started the girls volleyball contest at the MHS gym, while girls soccer competition began at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Other notable events last week were the CNMI junior tennis players participation in two tournaments in Australia, the playoffs of the DLX caging, Gloria Omechelang and John Taisacan's victories in the Saipan Bowling Association finale roll-offs, and Enticer 1.

Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, Tammy Ackerman, and Christian Miller competed in the 2012 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup with the former giving the Commonwealth its best finish in the event held in Albury after making it to the semi-finals of the girls U16 singles. Miller won his first match in the qualifying draw of the U16 singles but lost in the second round, while Jones and Ackerman dropped their opening games in the men's singles and U12 singles, respectively.

From Albury, Minor, Miller, and Ackerman went to Wodonga and joined the 2012 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships. Jones was also in Wodonga, but competed in a different tournament—the 2012 Wodonga Grasscourt Championships.

Back in local events, four teams—MDX, Blue Haus, SCS Heavy Equipment, and Wushin Express survived the first round of the playoffs in the DLX caging. Blue Haus went on to win the championship after dominating MDX in the finals.

Also securing championship wins were Omechelang and Taisacan, who were crowned SBA/Budweiser Queen of the Lanes and Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes, respectively, after topping the 2011 season-ending competition at the Capitol Bowling Center in Garapan last week.

Over at the Paupau Beach, a pre-XTERRA/Tagaman race dubbed as Enticer 1 was held last week with XTERRA World participant Butch Sublemente besting 14 other triathletes.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Mt. Carmel School player pulls up for shot against a phalanx of Marianas High School defenders during their game in the MISO caging last week at the MHS Gymnasiun.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Marianas High School junior varsity defenders, in yellow uniforms, work to push back the MHS varsity forwards during their game in the MISO girls soccer league last at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Organizers and volunteers of the DLX caging pose for a group photo after completing the semis games last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in last week's XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer 1 get ready for the start of the swim leg in the waters of Paupau Beach.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX's Jeong Park stretches for a layup against Wushin Express' Junar Guiab during their semis game in the DLX caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Grace Christian Academy player, right, taps a crafty shot over the head of a Kagman High School blocker the opening game in the MISO girls volleyball league last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Taisacan, left, and Gloria Omechelang, pose for a photo after ruling Saipan Bowling Association's season-finale roll-off last week.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Blue Haus clinches DLX championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

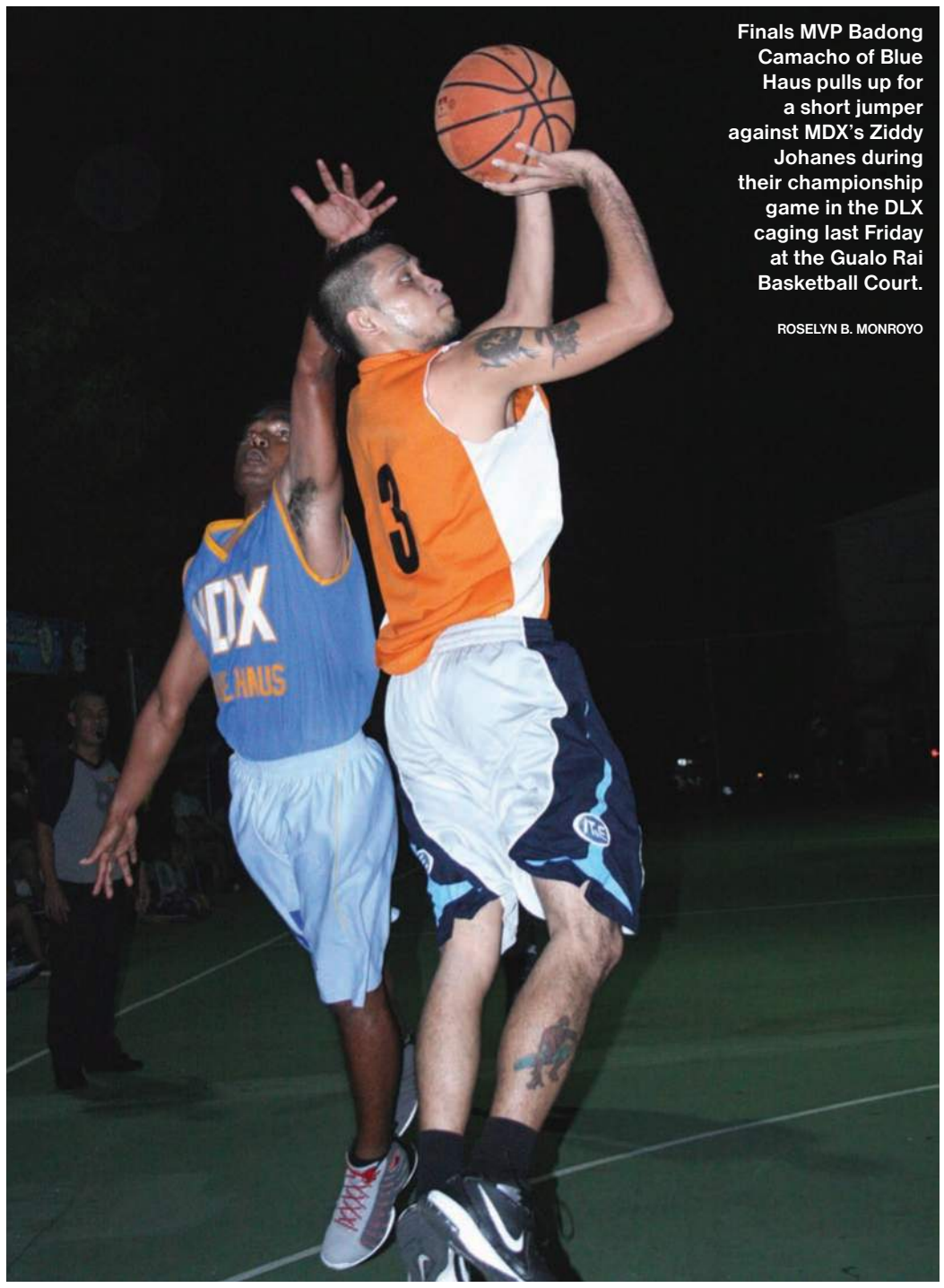
MDX choke in the finals after sweeping the regular season, allowing Blue Haus to steal the inaugural championship in the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League.

Blue Haus cruised to a masterful 70-43 victory in the winner-take-all finals last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Court Basketball for an upset against MDX, which was undefeated in 10 games before facing the former for all the marbles last weekend.

The one-game finale was a hit and miss case with Blue Haus pushing all the right buttons to dominate the championship match and MDX struggling both on both ends of the court.

Blue Haus run a patient offense, swinging the ball around to find the open man and then making the move in the last 10 seconds of the 24-shot clock. Blue Haus was called for 24-second shot clock violation only twice, but had a handful of baskets off drop and kickoff passes.

See BLUE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Finals MVP Badong Camacho of Blue Haus pulls up for a short jumper against MDX's Ziddy Johanes during their championship game in the DLX caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Southern sweeps GCA in MISO boys caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays defeated the Grace Christian Academy Eagles, 77-37, during last Friday's game in the 2011-2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League at the the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The second win in as many games put Southern on top of the team standings, tied with MHS. GCA is still winless after two matches.

Friday also marked MISO's first junior varsity pairing for the season and the Rays also came away victorious, 31-13.

See SOUTHERN on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Jimmy Tudela is hounded by Grace Christian Academy defenders during their game in the MISO varsity caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Thea saves third place in last tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor capped her campaign in Australia with a third place win in the 2012 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga yesterday.

Minor defeated the second-ranked Lorish Puluspene of Papua New Guinea in straight sets in the battle for third place, 6-2, 6-1, to make it to the medal podium of the U16 singles.

The 15-year-old netter drew a bye in the first round of the girls U16 singles and then faced Australia's Priscilla Dawson in the quarterfinals last Friday. A 6-1, 6-1 triumph over her Aussie foe advanced Minor to the semis where he was pitted against former teammate Annie Shannon

See THEA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thea Minor, seen here in action in a local tournament, finished third in her last tournament in Australia.

Two in a row for Butch, wins pre-XTERRA run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Butch Sublemente did not disappoint pre-XTERRA/Tagaman courses race volunteers, who expected him to top last Saturday's event.

Sublemente reached the finish line of the XTERRA trail race near Gold's Gym first at the 28:23 mark, just 29 seconds ahead of runner-up Ronald Villafria.

"It was slippery out there, but I had a good run as I am familiar with the course," said Sublemente, who also ruled the XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer 1 on Jan. 7, making him the favorite for last Saturday's run race.

Sublemente was among the 32 runners who joined the weekend race that started and ended at the parking lot near Gold's Gym. From the starting line, runners went towards Morgen's Bluff, headed up the rough road that serves as the last descent of the XTERRA bike course. They then went up the coral

See TWO on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the pre-XTERRA/Tagaman run race leave the starting line near the parking lot at Gold's Gym last Saturday.